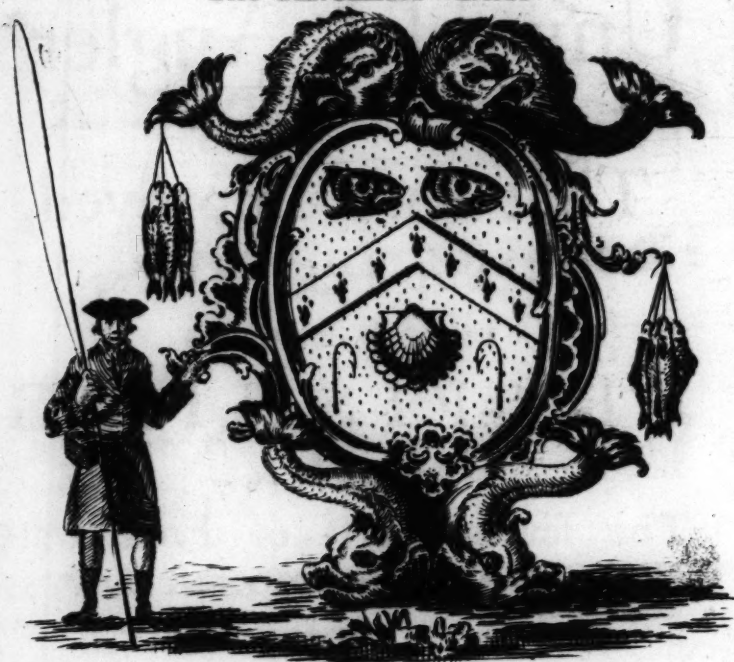


The ANGLERS ARMS



GREAT DUN ANT FLY PALMER



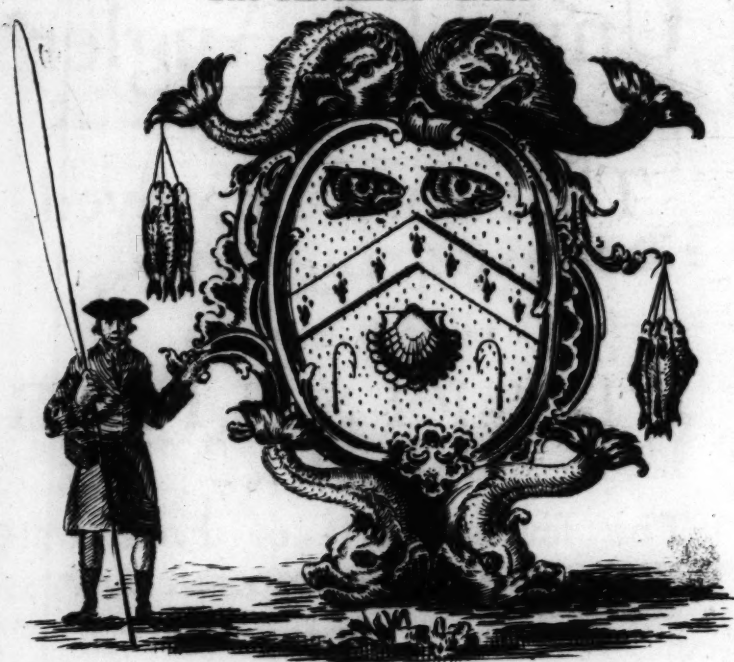
HAWTHORN

DUN-CUT

GREEN DRAKE



The ANGLERS ARMS



GREAT DUN ANT FLY PALMER



HAWTHORN

DUN-CUT

GREEN DRAKE



ANGLER. R

T H E
Universal Angler ;
O R,
That ART Improved,
IN ALL ITS PARTS,
E S P E C I A L L Y I N
F L Y - F I S H I N G :

D E S C R I B I N G
The several Sorts of Fresh-water
FISH, with their properest BAITS.

A L S O,
The Names, Colours, and Seasons of all
the most useful FLIES :

T O G E T H E R
With Directions for making each FLY Artifi-
cially, in the most exact Manner.

The whole Interspersed with many Curious and
Uncommon Observations.

Adorned with CUTS of the several FISH
herein treated on.

L O N D O N Printed ;
And sold by all the Bookellers in Town and Country.
MDCCLXVI.

Unimpaired Angles;

That Art Improved,



The Royal Society of the Arts,
which with their own hands

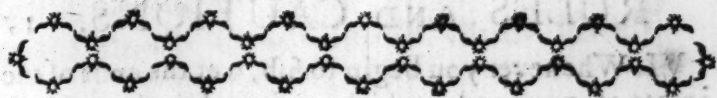
the Names, Colours, and Orders of all
the most useful Arts;

the most useful Arts;
the most useful Arts;

the most useful Arts;
the most useful Arts;

the most useful Arts;
the most useful Arts;

And finally all the most useful Arts;
the most useful Arts;



GENERAL RULES and CAUTIONS.

I. **W**HEN you have hooked a fish, never suffer him to run out with the line; but keep your rod bent, and as near perpendicular as you can; by this method the top plies to every pull he makes, and you prevent the straining of your line. For the same reason,

II. Never raise a large fish out of the water by taking the hair to which the hook is fastened, or indeed any part of the line into your hand; but either put a landing net under him, or for want of that your hat: you may indeed in fly-fishing, lay hold of your line to draw a fish to you; but this must be done with caution.

III. Your silk, for whipping hooks and other fine work, must be very small; use it double, and wax it (and indeed every other sort of binding) with shoemaker's wax; if your wax is too stiff, temper it with tallow.

IV. Inclose the knots and joints of your line in a little pill of wax, pressed very close, and the superfluities pinched off; this will soon harden, and prevent the knots from drawing.

V. If for strong fishing you use the grass, which, when you can get it fine, is to be preferred to gut, remember to soak it always an hour in water before you use it: this will make it tough and prevent its kinking.

RULES AND CAUTIONS. iv

VI. Whenever you begin to fish, wet the ends of the joints of your rod ; which, as it makes them swell, will prevent their loosening. And,

VII. If you happen with rain or otherwise to wet your rod, so that you cannot pull the joints asunder, turn the ferrel round a few times in the flame of a candle, and they will easily separate.

VIII. Before you fix the loop of bristle to your hook in order to make a fly ; to prevent its drawing before to siage the ends of it ; do the same by the hair to which at any time you whip a hook.

IX. Make flies in warm weather only ; for in cold your waxed silk will not draw.

X. In rainy weather, or when the season for fishing is over repair whatever damage your tackle has sustained.

XI. Never regard what bunglers and slovens tell you, but believe that neatness in your tackle, and a nice and curious hand in all your work are absolutely necessary

XII. Never fish in any water that is not common without first obtaining leave of the owners, which is seldom denied to those who deserve it.

Lastly. Remember that the wit and invention of man were given for greater purposes than to ensnare silly fish : and that, how delightful soever Angling may appear, it ceases to be innocent when used otherwise than as mere recreation.

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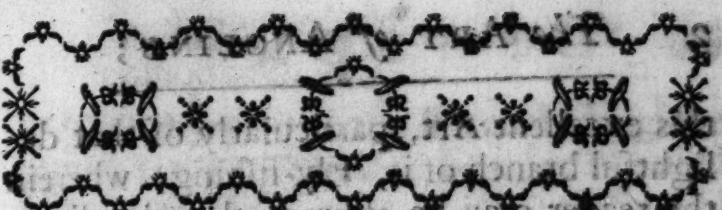
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THE



THE

Art of ANGLING;

OR,

COMPLEAT FLY-FISHER.

which are the scenes of the angler's diversion, to describe the different kinds of fish

ANGLING has always been
A deservedly reckoned one of the
most innocent and delightful
recreations of the sportsman: it
gives the mind a very agreeable and amu-
sing entertainment, and at the same time
contributes not a little to the health and
vigour of the body, by the moderate and
gentle exercise it requires, as well as by
the wholsome and refreshing air that plays
upon the water. The design of the fol-
lowing sheets, is to contribute what I can
towards the improvement and perfection of
this

2 *The ART of ANGLING;*

this excellent Art, particularly of that delightful branch of it, Fly-fishing; wherein the reader may be assured, that the directions he will meet with are not the trite and common ones frequently taken upon trust from others, and generally found unsuccessful upon trial: but they will be, for the most part, new and uncommon, founded upon repeated observations of my own, and confirmed by many years practice and experience in the Art.

THE manner in which I intend to treat this subject will be this. After mentioning the rivers (at least the chiefest of them) which are the scenes of the Angler's diversion, to describe the different kinds of fish their inhabitants: their several natures and qualities: their haunts, and places of feeding and retirement: the various kinds of foods and baits adapted to each particular kind of fish, together with the most proper times and seasons of using them: and more especially the great diversity of flies which nature produces for them, in a wonderful, yet regular succession: with directions for making the artificial fly, and a particular account of the necessary materials, as feathers, furs, &c. requisite to make every sort of fly in such manner as to have the nearest resemblance to the natural.



THE Number of our Rivers in England are by some reckoned to be three hundred and twenty-five, most of the principal of which are as follow;

<i>Thames.</i>	<i>Dove.</i>	<i>Nyd.</i>	<i>Tine.</i>
<i>Severn.</i>	<i>Dun.</i>	<i>Ouse.</i>	<i>Test.</i>
<i>Trent.</i>	<i>Dart.</i>	<i>Orwell.</i>	<i>Teme.</i>
<i>Humber.</i>	<i>Eden.</i>	<i>Onny.</i>	<i>Tbryn.</i>
<i>Medway.</i>	<i>Eamon.</i>	<i>Parret.</i>	<i>Tees.</i>
<i>Tweed.</i>	<i>Eavenlode.</i>	<i>Plim.</i>	<i>Ver.</i>
<i>Wye.</i>	<i>Ex.</i>	<i>Petterel.</i>	<i>Ufk.</i>
<i>Avon.</i>	<i>Frome.</i>	<i>Rotber.</i>	<i>Ware.</i>
<i>Are.</i>	<i>Isis.</i>	<i>Reck.</i>	<i>Wever.</i>
<i>Arun.</i>	<i>Itchen.</i>	<i>Rbea.</i>	<i>Weland.</i>
<i>Blitbe.</i>	<i>Iddle.</i>	<i>Roden.</i>	<i>Wensbeck.</i>
<i>Breton.</i>	<i>Kennet.</i>	<i>Ribble.</i>	<i>Wey.</i>
<i>Calder.</i>	<i>Lea.</i>	<i>Rumney.</i>	<i>Waveney.</i>
<i>Cherwell.</i>	<i>Line.</i>	<i>Stour.</i>	<i>Witham.</i>
<i>Cburner.</i>	<i>Lavant.</i>	<i>Swift.</i>	<i>Windrush.</i>
<i>Chelmer.</i>	<i>Lon.</i>	<i>Stroud.</i>	<i>Wash.</i>
<i>Coln.</i>	<i>Lowther.</i>	<i>Sow.</i>	<i>Willey.</i>
<i>Clun.</i>	<i>Lug.</i>	<i>Sherburn.</i>	<i>Warf.</i>
<i>Crouch.</i>	<i>Mersey.</i>	<i>Swall.</i>	<i>Youre.</i>
<i>Dee.</i>	<i>Monnow.</i>	<i>Salwarp.</i>	<i>Yare.</i>
<i>Derwent.</i>	<i>Nen.</i>	<i>Tame.</i>	
<i>Deben.</i>	<i>Nadder.</i>	<i>Tamer.</i>	

THAMES, the chief river of the island, is composed of two rivers, Tame and Isis; the former rising in Buckinghamshire, the other about two miles west of Cirencester, in Gloucestershire; and uniting their streams with their names near Dorchester, in Oxfordshire, make a fine beautiful river; from thence is called by the above single name of Thames; which flowing and journeying on through the several counties of Berks, Buckingham, Middlesex, Surry, Essex, and Kent, joins the Medway in the very mouth of the British Ocean.

SEVERN is also a large and beautiful river, which, for the length of its navigation, may rival or even exceed the former. It has its rise in Plinlimmon-hill, in Montgomeryshire, and is capable of carrying large boats and barges in the same county. It washes in its course the walls of Shrewsbury, Worcester, and Gloucester, and several other places of less distinction, and at last disembogues itself into the Bristol Channel about seven miles below that city.

TRENT,

TRENT, so called from its producing thirty kinds of fish, or from its reception of thirty lesser rivers, has its fountain in Staffordshire, and flowing through the several counties of Nottingham, Lincoln, Leicester, and York, augmenteth the turbulent river Humber, the most violent current of all the island.

HUMBER is not properly a distinct river, as not having a spring-head of its own, but is rather the mouth or receptacle of divers other rivers, especially the Derwent, Ouse, and Trent, here confluent and meeting together.

MEDWAY is a Kentish river, remarkable for harbouring the royal navy.

TWEED is a river on the north-east bounds of England, dividing it from Scotland; on whose banks stands the strong and memorable town of Berwick.

WYE is a large and pleasant river, which runs with a winding course through the counties of Brecknock, Hereford, Monmouth, and Gloucester, and at last falls into the Bristol Channel. There is

6 *The ART of ANGLING;*

another river of the same name in Dorsetshire, (though differently spelt) upon the mouth of which stands the town of Weymouth, so called from its situation. It is not unusual to have several rivers called by the same name, sometimes three or four; as is remarkable in the names Avon, Stour, Ouse, and some others, of which there are several so called in different parts of England.

THERE may possibly be some rivers omitted in the preceding catalogue as considerable as many of those there set down. There are also innumerable brooks and rivulets (too many to be particularly taken notice of) that afford the sportsman as much diversion as many of the larger rivers. By this means England enjoys the advantage of being better watered than most parts of the world; which greatly adds to the fertility of its soil, the beauty of the country, and by the great plenty and variety of fish here produced, to the delight and convenience of mankind. These I shall in the next place proceed to describe.

THE

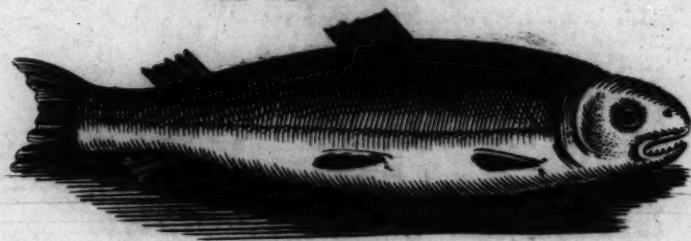
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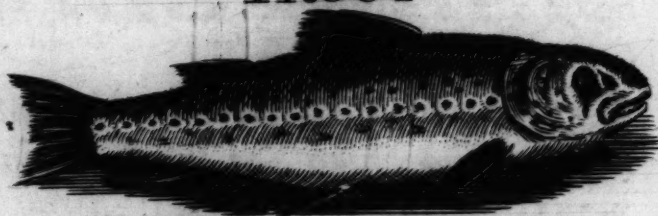
SALMON



PIKE



TROUT



GRAYLING



THE Names of our Fresh-water Fish,
are,

Salmon.	Flounder.	Eel.
Salmon-Pinks,	Barbel.	Minnow, or
or.	Cbub, or Bot-	Pink.
Last-Springs.	ling.	Loach.
Pike, or Luce.	Roach.	Bullhead.
Trout.	Dace.	Stickle-back, or
Grayling.	Gudgeon.	Jack-sharp.
Pearcb.	Ruff.	Shad.
Tench.	Bleak.	Lamprey.
Carp.	Cbarr.	Lampern.
Bream.	Guiniad.	Crawfish.



*First of the SALMON; the Spawnt-
ing Time, and Seasons for Feed.*

THE Salmon is accounted the king
of all fresh-water fish, and always
breeds in rivers that have an immediate
communication to the sea; yet so high or
distant from it as not to admit any salt or
brackish tincture. He is a fish of prey,
has his teeth in his mouth, as other fish of
prey have: when in season, he is adorned

8 . *The* ART of ANGLING ;

with a row of small, round, black spots, along the middle of his sides from head to tail. The Salmons are of several sorts, and different appellations: but, for a nice taste, the Thames Salmon are reckoned to exceed those of any other river. In the river Severn the spawning time is in the month of May. The Severn Salmon are likewise excellent in their kind, and are first in season of any river I know of in England; which is from February to the latter end of April.

It is said that they dig a private hole in the gravel, and there leave their eggs, which early in the following spring become Last Springs, or Salmon-Smelts. After they have spawned, both melter and spawner hasten to the sea before winter: but if any are stopped by flood-gates, wares, or mills, and so confined to the fresh-water, they become lean, consume, and die within a year or two at most.

***** *His Haunts.*

IN the Spring he returns from sea into the fresh rivers, where he fattens; the sea adding greatly to his growth and goodness.

ness. The Salmon delights to prey and sport in swift violent streams and large rivers; especially in such waters that have pebbly, gravelly, and, sometimes, weedy bottoms: is ever restless, coveting to get near the spring head; when off prey and sport, he swims in the deep broad parts, and, generally, in the middle of the river, near the ground.



Of his Feeding Time and Baits.

THE Salmon is to be taken with the trout's baits. They commonly lie in the middle of a rough, and upper part of a gentle stream, when on prey. Their best feeding time is from six to nine in the forenoon, and from three in the afternoon till sun-setting, in a clear water, when the wind blows moderately against the stream. The only months for him are, from the beginning of March to the end of August. He is to be fished for with the small Last-spring, fly, or worm bait; but the first is the best: you must trole for him in the same manner you do for pike, which is particularly described in the following sheets. When struck, he begins to leap

and plunge, but runs not to the end of the line, as the trout will. Some use a ring on the top of the rod, through which the line may run to its extremity; though a wheel about the middle of the rod, or nearer the hand, is more convenient.



Observations and Remarks on the little SALMONS, called SAMLETS, SALMON-PINKS, or SHEDDERS: and also on the LAST-SPRINGS, and GRAVEL-LAST-SPRINGS.

THESE small Salmons being found in our rivers of several sizes, and going under different names in several places, may be a reason why some have thought that the above small fry of the Salmon are different species or sorts of fish: but I conceive them to be all one and the same species, only they grow not to compleat Salmons, or full proportion, under two years and a half: and the reason for my opinion is, because I could never find any spawn in any of those of
 lesser

lesser size before they came to be Salmon; which most certainly they would have had if of a different species.

THE Last-Springs, Shedders, or Gravel-Last-Springs, (so called in some countries) are but one sort or species of fish. They are very plentiful in the rivers Severn, Wye, and Dee, from the latter end of March to the latter end of November, and are much like the Salmon-fry; only the Salmon-fry return to the sea in March and April, whereas the Shedders and Last-Springs never leave the fresh-water.

THE little Gravel-Last-Spring is a species of itself, which in the rivers Wye and Severn spawn in the latter end of August and September, and at that time those rivers abound with them: there are some of them at all times of the year, but at the latter end of August I have caught ten or twelve dozen of them in an afternoon. I had the curiosity of opening some of them, and found them to be full of male spawn near shedding, but never could perceive any female spawn; therefore am certain this must be a species of itself, as having spawn, but cannot account for this fish having no female spawn which may be discerned.

MANY

MANY have been of opinion that they are the spawn of the sick Salmon, which cannot get out of the fresh rivers to sea; and being the offspring of a weak seed or generation, is the reason of their diminutive size, and incapacity of breeding again: but I take this to be an error, because the Salmon ever spawn when in perfect health only, before their time of going to sea, and spawn no more till their return to the fresh-water, for unless they return to sea, thereby to be purged and cleansed by the salt-water, they pine away and die in their imprisonment, either by excessive cold in fresh-water, or for want of purgation, or both. Now the purging of the salt-water may as well be a reason why Salmon grow so fast, as the want thereof, the cause why they pine away and die so soon, when confined to fresh-waters; for Salmon being fish of prey, and great feeders, nature directs them to salt-water, as physick, to purge and cleanse them, not only from their impurities after spawning, but from all their muddy and gross humours, acquired by their excessive feeding all the summer in fresh rivers, and hardens their fat and flesh, which makes them not only grow the faster, but also become

become the more wholesome food, savoury and grateful to mankind.



Of the PIKE, or LUCE.

THE Pike is of a long and roundish body, has a plain smooth head, is covered with small scales of a whitish colour, and the body sprinkled with yellowish spots; the young ones are more green; the upper and lower jaws are full of teeth, and three rows of teeth upon the tongue. He's the tyrant of fresh-water fish, and reckoned a longer liver than any other fish, except a carp. He is very chargeable to his owners, his chief subsistence being upon other fish, even those of his own species. He will bite at a dog or any other creature he sees in the water, of which many instances might be given: a very particular one I shall relate, as follows:

My father caught a Pike in Barn-mere, (a large standing water in Cheshire) was an Ell long, and weighed thirty-five pounds, which he brought to the lord Cholmond-
ley:

ley. His lordship ordered it to be turned into a canal in the garden, wherein were abundance of several sorts of fish: about twelve months after his lordship drew the canal, and found that this overgrown Pike had devoured all the fish, except one large carp, which weighed between nine and ten pounds, and that was bitten in several places. The Pike was then put into the canal again, together with abundance of fish for him to feed upon, all which he devoured in less than a year's time, and was observed by the gardener and other workmen there to take the ducks and other water-fowl under water; whereupon they shot magpies and crows, and threw them into the canal, which the pike took before their eyes. Of this they acquainted their lord, who thereupon ordered the slaughter-man to throw calves bellies, chickens guts, and such like garbage for him to prey upon, but being soon after neglected, he died, as supposed, for want of food.

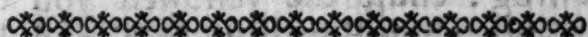
It is the general opinion that no other fish will associate themselves with this water-tyrant, for he always swims alone, and is the most bold and daring of all our freshwater fish, knowing no other pleasure, as we conjecture, than prey or rest.

Of



Of the Spawning Time.

HE spawns but once a year, which is usually about the end of February or beginning of March, at which time they go out of the river into some ditch or creek, and all the while the spawner is casting her eggs the milter hovers over her but never touches her. The best of these fish are those that breed in rivers, and the female much preferable to the male. Their chief season is from May till Candlemas; his feeding is generally upon fish or frogs, there being a great antipathy between him and them: sometimes he feeds upon pickrell-weed.

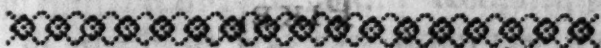


*There are Four Ways of taking
a PIKE.*

THE first is with a ledge-bait, which is a bait fixed to a certain place. It is best to have your ledge's-bait living, whether it be a fish or a frog; and to keep them alive the longer, observe this method. If it be a fish, as a roach or dace, which I think are most tempting, (though a perch lives the longest upon the hook) having cut off the fin
on

on the back, which may be done without hurting; make such incision between the head and the fin as you may put the arming wire of your hook into it, taking care to hurt the fish as little as may be; then carrying the wire along his back, into or near his tail, between the skin and the body, draw it out at another incision near the tail; then tie him about with thread, but no harder than just to hold him to the wire, to avoid hurting the fish. Some use a probe to open the passage, for the more easy entrance of the wire; but without so much trouble a little experience will make you perfect in this matter. When your bait is a frog, it may be either a land or a water-frog: chuse the yellowest you can get, for that the Pike likes best, and between the months of May and August they are the most beautiful. To preserve them long alive, manage them thus: put your hook in at his mouth and out at his gills; then with a fine needle and silk sew the upper part of his leg, with one stitch only to the arming wire; or, if you tie his leg fast above the upper joint, it will do as well. Having thus prepared your ledge's-bait either with a fish or a frog, fasten your hook to a line, which must be twelve
or

of fourteen yards at least in length; then fix the line to some bough or other rest next to the water, near to the hole where you guess the Pike to be, then wind up your line on a forked stick, with a notch in one end to keep your line fixed to the length you intend, that when the Pike comes he may the more easily run off with the remaining part of the line to his hold, and swallow the bait.



*The Second Way of Taking a
PIKE,*

IS what we call taking them at snap. For this purpose your rod must be at least twelve feet in length, very strong and taper, but not too heavy, with a substantial loop at the end to put your line into, which must be as long, within a foot, as your rod. When you bait for the snap you must make a hole in the fish's side you intend for the bait, as near the middle as you can, with the end of your hook or probe; put in your armed wire, and draw it out of the fish's mouth; then sow up his mouth. When you fish thus for the Pike, before you strike let him run a little, and

and then strike contrary to the way he takes. It is best to use a double spring-hook in this sort of fishing, being much preferable to any other, and never fails: This manner of angling is only proper to be practiced in March, for then the Pike is sick, and bites shy.

*The Third Way of Taking a
PIKE,*

IS by snaring, or haltering: and the chief time of the year for this is from March to July, and in the hottest part of the day, when the fish appear, as they all do, on the top of the water. When you have spied a Pike, fix your eye stedfastly upon him without looking off, which will make him the quieter, and have your snare with you ready fixed, after this manner: Take a strait taper pole, that is stiff and strong enough, but not too heavy, off about four yards in length: fasten to the lesser end a small piece of hard twisted whip-cord, about a yard long, more or less according to the depth of the water, and to the end fasten a well nealed brass wire, made into a noose or snare, like a hare-gin, or let it be all of
nealed

nealed wire, with no cord: then, having opened the noose wide enough to slip over his head without touching him, let it down with your pole into the water, even in depth with the Pike, two or three yards before him, and guide it very gently towards his head, fixing your eyes full upon him, till you have put the snare over his head and gill-fins, but no further: then immediately with a strong jerk upright, hoist him instantly to land. Keeping your eye as much as you can upon the Pike, will cause him to look upon you the more and mind the snare less. Besure your pole be not brittle or rotten.

IN the same manner you may halter other fish; as carp, eels, trout and tench.

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*The Fourth Way of Taking a
PIKE,*

IS by trolling, and very pleasant: the lines and other tackle for this purpose are now so accurately and exactly made, and so commonly sold, that I need not trouble you with a description of them. It is best angling after this manner in a clear water and especially in a windy day. Some prefer

fer a single before a double pike hook, and bait with a minnow as well to catch perch as Pike by trolling. When you are completely fitted up with all materials, and your hook is baited, cast your fish bait up and down in such places as you know the Pike frequents, letting him sink a considerable depth before you offer to pull him up again. When the Pike comes, if it be not sunk too deep, you may see the water move, at least you may feel him: then slack your line, and give him length enough to run to his hold; whether he will immediately make, and there paunch and swallow the bait. Thus let him lie till you see the line move; when you may certainly conclude he has swallowed the bait, and is ranging about for more: then with your trole wind up the line till you think it is almost strait, and with a nimble jerk hook him, and bring him pleasantly to land.

THE Pike loves a still, shady, unfrequented water, with a sandy, chalky, or clay bottom. His best biting time is early in the morning, or late in the evening, in a clear water and gentle gales: he takes all sorts of baits, except flies, but the most principal are, large gudgeons, small roaches

roaches and dace, large minnows, bull-heads, bleaks (in July), young frogs, or salmon-smelts: some use fat bacon in winter months: a young trout, jack, or perch are also good. Take care that all your fish-baits are fresh and sweet when you use them.



Of the TROUT.

THE Trout is a fish highly valued in this and foreign nations; he feeds clear and purely, and in the swiftest streams; and may claim a preference to all fresh-water fish. The shape of it is rather long than broad, like the salmon: it has a short roundish head, a blunt snout, and in many respects resembles the salmon; his mouth is also filled with teeth as the salmon's is.

THE best trouts are either red or yellow, though some are white, and yet good, but these are rarely found. The female has a lesser head, deeper body, and is usually better meat than the male. It is observed

observed that a hog-back and a little head to any sort of fish, either trout, salmon, or other sorts, is a sign that such fish are in season.

THERE are several sorts of Trouts, tho' they all go under that general name, which differ in their bigness, shape, and colour; and in some rivers they are sooner in season than others; and in some longer before they go out of season. There is a sort of small trout which will never come to any bigness, but breeds much more than those of a larger size.



The Spawning Time.

THE Trout, a little before they spawn, make up the river to the spring-head, and to admiration will get through mill, wares, and flood-gates, and up such high and swift currents and places as is almost incredible; and spawn in October or November, (but in some rivers a little sooner or later like the salmon; contrary to the natural course of most other fishes, which spawn in warmer weather.

AFTER Trouts have spawned, they waste, look big-headed, are sick, lean, become

become insipid, are lousy and unwholsome, till spring comes to restore them to their pristine health; except some of the females who are barren, and continue good all the winter: and such are to be found in divers of our rivers; as in Arrow, in Herefordshire: and also in the river Teme that arises in Radnorshire: and in Clun-water, in Shropshire. In this respect they may be compared to the barren does, that come in season about the middle of November, and go out the beginning of February:

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His Haunts.

IN February, when the weather becomes warmer, Trouts leave their winter-quarters in the deeps, to scour, cleanse, and recreate themselves in shallower waters and streams, and to prepare themselves for their summer delights; and as they gather strength advance still higher up the river, till they become settled in their summer habitations; many of them getting as high as they can towards the spring head of rivers, as in the preceding section. In their travels they settle for the most part in

in whirl-pools, and holes into which swift streams, sharps, and shallows fall: and growing strong, feed in the largest and swiftest currents; especially in the sides and deepest parts of them, near to their holds. If they be large fish they commonly lie under hollow banks, worn so by the streams bearing upon them; under roots of trees, boughs, and bushes; and behind great stones, blocks, and banks that jet forth into the water, on which streams pressing hard, cause an eddy or whirling back of the water; and they also delight themselves in all such places that are shaded with any bush, or covered over with froth, bank, or other thing; constantly waiting and watching for the stream to bring something down to feed upon, or for some small fish which they often make their prey. Sometimes they take up their station under bridges; and between two streams that run from under double arches of bridges, in the returns of the streams, where the water seems to boil and roll up and down. In deep still waters, they chiefly lurk under hollow banks and roots of trees; and for want of such hiding places, abscond under seggs or weeds, the better to surprise their prey, especially in the beginning

And Compleat FLY-FISHER. 25

ginning of the year, before they become healthy; but at the latter end of the year, when declining in strength, they die in the tails of streams; and when in their very prime, in mill-heads or dams, and at the upper end of mill-pools, under planks and timber, and in other deep swift streams, as locks, flood-gates, and wares. Thus by knowing their most frequented haunts, the angler may be, in the next place, more easily directed in the various ways of sporting for them.

The best Months for Angling for TROUTS,

THE best four months of angling for Trouts are, March, April, May, and June. You may begin in February if the weather be open and mild; but the chiefest months are those four first mentioned. In March and April it is best angling for Trouts with a worm in the forenoon, and with a fly or minnow all the rest of the day: but in the month of May, you must use the minnow or codbait in the forenoon, till the flies come down. In March, if the weather be
C hot,

hot, still, and bright, and the water clear, angle for them in the swiftest streams; and most strong part of the river with minnow or worm only; and in the deeps, mornings and evenings, very early and very late; that is, if the weather proves very clear and bright. In my opinion the Trout is best in Season about the beginning of May; before he has filled and gorged himself with the May-fly, for that fly makes the belly thin and the flesh flabby.



Of the GRAYLING, his Season and Shape.

SOME are of opinion that the Umber and Grayling differ only as the herring and pilchard do: but I think they are both the same fish, only different counties give them separate names. He feeds like a trout, but he is of another shape; for he is hog-backed, and his fins standing upon his back like those of a perch, his mouth and belly touch the ground together, which makes me believe he feeds most at bottom.

As

As to his size he never exceeds twenty four inches in length; is good and palatable all the year, but the principal Season is from September till Christmas; at which time he is black about his head and gills, and down the back; his belly is of a dark grey dappled colour, with beautiful black spots on his sides; is of a delicate shape; his flesh white and firm; his teeth grow round his upper jaw, as fine as any file, and his mouth is so tender on each side, that he often breaks the hold when taken; therefore it is best angling for him with a fine hook.

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*His Spawning Time.*

HE spawns about the latter end of March and beginning of April, at which time he lies in sharp streams and brows, and is very apt to rise at the artificial fly; but you seldom take a spawner: the milter will, at that time, take a worm freely.

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*His Haunts.*

HIS Haunts are the same as those of the trout, and he is usually taken with the



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### How to take the GRAYLING.

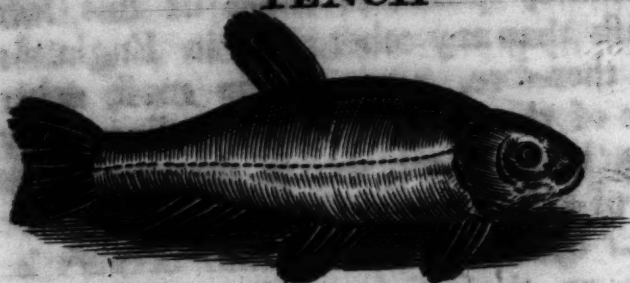
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PEARCH



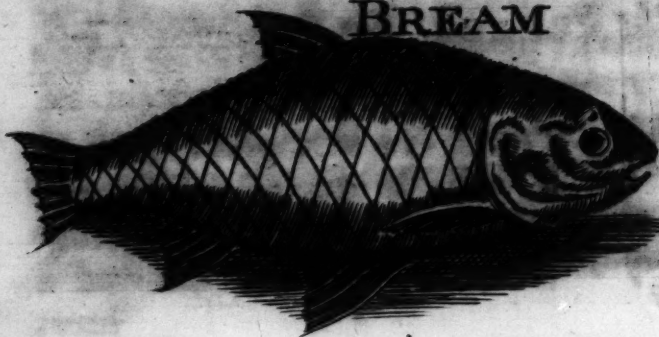
TENCH



CARP



BREAM



therefore, when you angle particularly for him, use a cork-float rather than a running line. Indeed I cannot but think a trout much inferior to the Grayling for angling or eating.

I AM informed that the great river Humber, which runs through part of Yorkshire, produces more of this sort of fish than any other river in England; and therefore, what we in most other parts of the kingdom call Grayling, they there (by a resemblance of the name with that of the river) call the Golden-umber: which epithet they give him because he feeds on those stony and gravelly insects that gather up the dust, which is very fine, which dust, when mixed with the slime in the fish's belly, shines like gold.



*Of the PEARCH, his Spawning Time,  
and Shape.*

**T**HE Perch is a very good and bold biting fish; is one of the fishes of prey, carrying his teeth in his mouth, which is very large: he is very ravenous and a



great devourer of his brethren; has a hog-back, and armed with sharp prickles: his skin is covered over with thick, dry, hard, scales, having two fins at his back. The Sea-pearch has but one fin on his back, and is esteemed a much better fish. He spawns in May. As to his shape, he's deep bodied, about fourteen inches in length, oftener less, though there have been seen of them two feet long,

*With what Baits, and how to  
take the PEARCH.*

**T H E R E** are several baits which will take him, but he bites as freely at the three following as at any or all other whatever; that is, the worm, minnow, or little frog: and of all worms I take the dunghill-worm, called the red-worm, to be the best, when well scoured in moss or fennel.

If you rove for a Pearch with a minnow, let it be alive, and stick your hock in its back fin, or upper lip, and let him swim up and down in midwater, or a little lower, with a cork, which ought not to be very small, and you must be sure to lead your  
line

line within nine inches or a foot of the hook, for that will keep the bait under water, else he will come to the top when tired. This is as good a bait for the trout as any.

When you fish with a frog, you must put the hook through the skin of his back, for then he will swim without interruption.

When either trout or Pearch bite, be sure you give him line enough, that he may gorge the bait; or else the hook, being covered with the bait, will slip out of his mouth. This way of fishing for Pearch is best in the months of May and June, for then they are roving about for the spawn of roach and dace.

The best way of gathering these fish together is to take half a dozen clay balls, about the size of a penny loaf, of the stiffest fastest clay that can be had, and make them round and full of holes, but you should first have ready a large quantity of lob-worms, then put one end of every worm into each hole, and close the clay fast upon them. Thus having filled and stuffed all the balls, take them to the pool, pond, or river, where you intend to angle; throw two or three balls in a place, at about a yard's distance from each other; these worms in the balls being alive, twist and

twine themselves, which tempts the fish to feed boldly upon them. This is the most singular ground-bait I know of to take carp, tench, Pearch, bream, or barbel. You may amuse them with stewed malt or grains; but they will eat very little of it.

In often using these ground baits, as above, you will draw the fish together natural as poultry to the barn-door; and when they frequent those balls, forget not the use of the maggot, which is the best of all ground baits.

his mouth. I have said I know all  
is best in the month of May and June  
that they are moving about for the purpose of

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and his belly was not emptying since his last

ground-bait to take them down clay-bait.

about the middle of the month of May and June

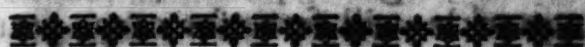
to take them down clay-bait.

**T**HE Tench, the physician of fishes, is observed to love ponds better than rivers, and to prefer pits to either. This fish is leather-mouth'd, has very large fins, small and smooth scales, a red circle about his eyes, which are large and of a gold colour; from each corner of his mouth hangs down a little barb. This fish is used in medicinal cases, and much commended for wholesome food. He carries a natural balsam to

SHW

cure

cure both himself and others; and yet loves to feed in very foul water, and amongst weeds. It is a general acceptation that when any other fish receives wound or hurt, he will search for the Tench, and endeavour to rub himself against him; which proves a certain cure, by virtue of the balsam or slime that is naturally upon the Tench.



*The Spawning Time, and Season.*

HE begins to spawn in June, and in some ponds not till the latter end of July, and lives some time out of water; and is best in season from the latter end of September to the latter end of May.



*His Biting Time and Baits.*

HE will bite at a well scoured red-worm, a maggot, a young wasp-grub boiled, or a green worm from the boughs of the trees. I reckon these four the best sorts of baits that are. His biting season is from the beginning of April to the latter end of May. Whether you angle for him



in pond or river, bait the place first with the same balls directed for the perch or carp; and be sure, if you have maggots, throw in a few at the taking of every fish, for that will keep them together. The size of your hook must be from number six to number three, whipped on a strong sea-grass or silk worm gut; two or three shots at the line for pond-fishing will be enough, with a swan or goose-quill float. The same fishing-tackle will serve for carp, perch, and Tench.

His striking time, or hours of motion, are about eight, twelve, and four, night or day, in the three hot months. If you can wade the pit or pond where carp and Tench are, you may stir the mud with your feet or with any instrument till you make the water very muddy; which will throw every fish up to the top of the water, and make them put their noses out of the water for air, (this I have experienced in Cheshire) and then you may take out what size you please; but this must be done in very hot weather. The muddy water makes them very sick for the present, but in half an hour's time, they will recover, and retire to the bottom again.

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*Of the CARP, his Shape and Colour.*

**T**HE Carp is a very stately and subtle fish; stiled the fresh-water fox. He is originally of foreign growth: his back rises from his head somewhat sharp and edged, is covered with very large, strong, broad scales: is of a yellowish colour, especially when arrived to an age: the younger sort are more inclined to a dusky colour: his head is short, in proportion to his body: has no teeth: and swims with broad fins: his tail is broad and forked, of a colour between red and black, as is also the last fin: neither hath he any tongue, but instead thereof nature hath given him a fleshy palate to relish his food.

He is observed to breed several months in the year, contrary to the nature of most other fish. To strengthen this conjecture, you shall seldom take a male Carp without a milt, or a female without much spawn; especially all the summer season. She breeds more naturally in ponds than in running water, (if she breeds there at all), but the river Carp for eating is preferred to all

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others. He is very difficult to take, and there is a necessity of exercising the virtue of patience when you sport for him: for I have known the best of anglers use their utmost art and diligence for many hours to take him. In some ponds they are as difficult to take as in a river; that is, where they have a store of feed and a clear water. He is to be fished for early and late; you cannot go to an extreme in either.



### *Of the Spawning Time.*

SHE begins to spawn in May, and when a female Carp goes to cast her spawn, three or four milsters follow her, and, she dissembling a coyness, force her through weeds and flags, where she drops her spawn, which sticks fast to the weeds: then the male performs his office, and all the spawn so milted upon, in a short time become living fish. They begin to spawn at four years old. The Carp and tench are the only two fish that ought to be put in a pond together, and thrive best in clay or marle bottoms.



*His Haunts.*

**THERE** is scarce any sort of fish that loves a cold hungry water, but such water as comes off rich fat soils, and is very soft: in this, all sorts of pool-fish delight and thrive. It is imprudent to keep any other fish with Carp and tench, especially roach and dace, for they destroy the carp's food. There are pike, perch, roach, dace, bream, and slate, the most fit to keep company together.



*Of his Biting Time and Baits.*

**H**E bites at a well scoured red-worm, maggot, wasp-grub, or the green-worm from trees, boughs, or bushes; which last is a very natural bait. There are many sorts of pastes that are mentioned for taking of Carp and other fish, but I look upon them to be very ordinary; the four sorts of baits abovementioned being the best I have experienced for the taking of Carp, tench, or perch, by reason you can raise quantities of them to bait your holes; which will certainly draw them together,

if



you do it a day or two before you begin to angle; but in case the fish are shy, you must continue to bait the holes for a fortnight or three weeks together, once a day; then you may depend on sport. But if the pool or pond be well stored with these sort of fish, you need only bait where you purpose to sport an hour or two before hand. Your worms must be of the red and white sort, not too large, and well scoured. There are many other baits, but these, with diligence and patience, will take a Carp sooner than any other I ever tried.

HE is generally caught at the bottom, where the line and lead is not discovered as it is in mid-water. Baiting the holes before you fish for him, and he tasting your baits without disturbance or treachery, makes him feed bold, and not apprehensive of being betrayed. Use a long rod and quill float, keeping out of sight as much as you can whilst angling: when you strike him, give him play enough, otherwise he will break your tack, for he is not only a strong fish but a great struggler; and, if he is a large fish, as soon as he takes the bait will run immediately to the other side of the river or pond.

He

He is a leather-mouth'd fish: his age is variously determined, but most think that he commonly arrives to the age of forty or fifty years: He is best in season in March and April.

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*Observations on the Breeding of*

**CARP.**

UNLESS gentlemen take more care than they have done of late years, it will be impossible to have large Carp; because they overstock the pool with them, which keeps the fish lean, and causes them to breed in abundance, and when they once begin to breed, they will never grow to any size afterwards: neither will the spawn of little Carp ever grow to be large; for when they take to breed at two or three years old, the fish of such spawn will never grow to be large, change them into ever so many waters; for it is as much impossible to have large fish from the spawn of small one's, as it is to expect a large breed of fowls from a Guiney-cock and hen; for when the Carp breed so young, they may properly be called of the dwarf kind. Now if gentlemen

gentlemen are desirous to breed their fish large, let them pick out the males and females of such sort of fish they delight in of the largest size; then put them into the breeding pans or pools, but be sure to cleanse the same first of all other fish. Thus in two or three years time you will have the right store Carp. Then take the males and females of these fish, and put them into your pans or pools, and in a few years they will become large eating fish.

By thus managing and shifting your fish, you will have a constant stock; but then you ought once in three years to examine if the water agrees with them.

Be sure that your fish for breeders are each four or five pounds weight at least, and as much bigger as possible; for the fry of a large fish will grow to as large a size in four or five years time, as those of a small size will in ten years: contrary to the judgment of most gentlemen, who believe that the water and feed add to the growth of the Carp, and therefore regard not what sized fish they breed from, which is a very great error.

*How*

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*How to Preserve and Feed Fish  
in Pools.*

WHEN you intend to stock a pool with Carp or tench, make a close ethering hedge across the head of it, about a yard distant off the dam, and about three feet above the water, which is the best refuge for them I know of, and the only method to preserve pool-fish; because, if any one attempts to rob the pool, muddies the water, or disturbs it with nets, most of the fish, if not all, immediately fly between the hedge and the dam to preserve themselves. And in pools where there are such shelters and shades, the fish delight to swim backwards and forwards, through and round the same, rubbing and sporting themselves therewith. This hedge ought to be made chiefly of orls, and not too close, the boughs long, and straggling towards the dam; by which means you may feed and fatten them as you please.

The best baits for drawing them together at first, are maggots or young wasps; the next are bullocks brains and lob-worms chopped together, and thrown into the pool in large quantities, about two hours before



before sun-set, summer and winter. By thus using these ground-baits, once a day for a fortnight together, the fish will come as constantly and naturally to the place as cattle to their fodder; and to satisfy your curiosity, and convince you therein, after you have baited the pool for sometime as directed, take about the quantity of a two-penny wheaten loaf, cut it into slices, and wet it, then throw it into the pool where you had baited, and the carp will feed upon it; after you have used the wet bread three or four mornings, then throw some dry bread in, which will lie on the top of the water, and, if you watch out of sight of the fish, you will presently see them swim to it, and suck it in. I look upon wheaten bread to be the best food for them, though oaten or barley bread is very good. If there be tench or perch in the same pond, they will feed upon the four former baits, and not touch the bread.

INDEED there is no pool-fish so shy and nice as a Carp, as I have before observed; for when the water is disturbed they will fly to the safest shelter they can; which I one day observed, when assisting a gentleman to fish his pool; for another person disturbed the water by throwing the cast-  
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ing-net, but caught never a Carp: whereupon two or three of us stripped and went into the pool, which was provided with such a sort of a hedge in it as is before described, whither the carp had fled for safety; then fishing with our hands on both sides the hedge, that is, one on either side, we caught what quantity of Carp was wanting.

CARP are a hardy fish, and will live longer out of water than most others. I shall conclude with a particular observation on this head, as given by a late ingenious author: "Carps, says he, will live out of water, in an open place, only with much air, as is manifest by the method of fattening them in Holland, and which has been practiced here in England: viz. they hang them up in a cellar, or some cool place, on wet moss, in a small net, with their heads out, and a packthread through the upper fin to keep them upright, and thus feed them with white bread and milk for many days. This, adds our author, was told me by a man very curious, and of great honour and eminency, whose word, if I might name him, nobody would question." Indeed I myself have  
seen

seen this experienced; and as it is an instance of the respiration of fishes, very singular, and somewhat out of the way, I have, for the reader's diversion, taken notice of it.



### *Of the BREAM.*

**T**HE Bream is a broad fish, with a small head, and sharp snout; the top of the head somewhat broad and smooth; the back bending and edged, rising sensibly from the head like a swine: the colour of his back is betwixt blue and black, his sides and belly white, especially in those that are young and lean, but the sides of those that are full grown shine of a gold colour, and their belly is red: the mouth, in proportion to his size, is very small, and without teeth: the palate is soft and fleshy, like that of a carp: and his flesh soft and clammy. This fish greatly resembles a carp, being very broad, with a forked tail, and his scales set in excellent order: he has large eyes; but a small sucking

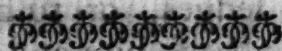
sucking mouth. The milt is observed to have two large milts, and the spawner two large bags of spawn. The best parts of this fish for eating, are his belly and his head.

It is said that Breams and roaches will mix their eggs and milt together, by which means there is, in many places, a bastard race of breams, which never grow to be large, are very numerous, but not good for eating.



*The Spawning Time.*

BREAMS spawn the latter end of June and beginning of July, and are best in season a little before they spawn; though some think them best in September, having then had their summer's feed.



*Their Haunts.*

THEY swim in shoals, or great companies, delighting most in gentle soft streams; sandy or clay bottoms; in the deepest, broadest, and middle parts of ponds; and  
in



in the deepest, broadest, and most quiet places in rivers near unto weeds. *The Bream and roach are fish that live and delight as well in rivers that are dead and heavy waters, as in pools; especially in a river called Avon, in Warwickshire and Worcestershire, where are plenty of them.*

*How, and with what Baits to take the BREAM.*

THERE are many sorts of baits wherewith to take him, viz. red-worms well scoured; but they like gentils and the young wasp-brood best, which last should be boiled in a pot or kettle, or dried on a tile-stone before the fire, which makes them not unlike gentils; or else a worm, like a maggot, which is found at dock roots, flags, sedges, or rushes, in watry places; he will also bite at a grass-hopper in June or July; or at several flies under water, found on flags that grow near the water-side.

THERE are several other good sorts of baits, but this following, communicated to me by an excellent angler, I prefer to them

them all; either for carp or Bream; that is, Take the largest red-worms you can get without a knot; which are to be found in great numbers; in an evening, in garden walks or chalky commons, after a shower of rain. Keep a quantity of them by you in an earthen pot, in clean moss, well washed, picked, and squeez'd as dry as possible; renew the moss every fourth day for three weeks or a month longer, then your bait will be in perfection.

HAVING thus prepared your baits, have your fishing tackle ready after this manner: take three long angling-rods; three or four silk, or silk and hair lines, and as many large swan or goose-quill floats: then fasten leaden plummets to the lower end of your line, about a foot or ten inches distance from the hook, but before the lead is heavy enough to sink the float, and not the float bear up the lead; the lower part of your line next the hook may be smaller than the rest, if you dare venture, for fear of taking the pike or perch, who will certainly visit your hooks till they are caught, as I shall shew hereafter, before either carp or Bream will come near to bite: when the worm is well baited, it will crawl and work itself as far as the lead will permit, which

which much lenticeth the fish to bite without suspicion. Your baits being thus ready, and your tackling fitted, repair to the rivers, where, at three or four a clock in a hot summer's afternoon, you may see them swim in shoals, and, which is easily discerned, watch their going out and coming back to their holes, for they return about those hours, most of them seeking food at the bottom; yet one or two most commonly lie on the top, rolling and tumbling about, whilst the rest are at the bottom under them: thus will you will ever observe one or more keeping centry. Then observe where they play most and keep longest, which is commonly in the deepest and broadest part of the river. Then chuse where is a clear bottom and convenient landing place; take one of your angles, and sound the bottom, and let it be eight or ten feet, and about two yards from the bank is best. Consider next if the water will rise or fall by next morning, by reason of any water mills near, and according to discretion take the depth of the place where you intend to cast your ground-baits, and fish to half an inch, that the lead lying on or near the ground-baits,

the top of the float may only appear upright, half an inch above the water.

THUS having fixed your place, and found the depth thereof, return home, and prepare your ground-baits as follows: take a peck of sweet ground barley malt, boil it in a kettle, then strain it through a linnen bag into a tub: and when the bag and malt are almost cold, take them down to the water-side, about eight or nine o'clock in the evening, and not before: throw in about one half of the ground-malt, squeezed hard between your hands, it will sink presently to the bottom: take care that it lodge in the very place you intend to angle. If the current run hard, or move a little, throw the malt in handfulls the higher up the stream: besure you squeeze the malt so hard, that the water will scarcely part it by the sinking.

HAVING thus baited and prepared your fishing tackle, leave the bag with the ground-baits and other materials near the sporting place all night; and about three or four o'clock in the morning visit the water-side, but not too near, for these fish are very watchful: take one of your three rods gently up into your hands, bait your hook, then cast it over the ground-bait,

D

softly



50. *The ART of ANGLING;*

softly and secretly draw it to you, till the lead rests about the middle of the ground-bait; cast in your second line about a yard above, and the third (both baited) a yard below the first. Fix the rods in the ground, but be sure go so far from the water-side that you perceive nothing but the floats, which you must watch very diligently; for when the fish bite, you will see the float sink suddenly into the water; yet run not too hastily to the rod, till you observe the line drawn clear away: then creep gently to the water-side, and give as much line as possibly you can; for if it be a carp or Bream, they will go to the other side of the water: then strike gently, and hold your rod sloping for a little while, for if you both pull, you are sure to lose the game; either line, hook, or hold, will certainly break. After you have overcome them, they will make fine sport, but are very shy to be landed. The carp is more strong and mettlesome than the Bream.

If pike or perch breed in the same river, they will bite first, and must be first taken: for the most part they are very large, and will repair to your ground bait; not that they will eat it, but they will feed and sport themselves amongst the young fry

fry that gather about, and hover above the bait.

THE way of discerning and taking the pike, if you mistrust the Bream-hook, is thus: take a small bleak, roach, or gudgeon,, bait with it, and set it alive among your rods, two feet deep from the cork, with a little red-worm on the point of the hook; then take a handful or two of maggots, or some of the ground-bait, and sprinkle it gently amongst your rods: if the pike be there, the little fish will skip out of the water, whereby your living bait will certainly be taken.

THUS continue your sport from four in the morning till eight: and if it be gloomy and windy they will bite all day; but that is too long to stand in one place, and may spoil an evening's diversion, which should be thus prosecuted; about four in the afternoon repair to the baited place, throw in one half of the remainder of the ground-bait, standing out of sight of the water, whilst the fish gather together; and after some short time of absence, bait your rods again, and put them in, as directed in the morning, and you will be sure of excellent sport till eight in the evening: then cast in the rest of your ground,

ground-bait, and, at four next morning, visit them again for four hours, which will be the best sport of all.

THEY are in their prime from St. James's till Bartholemew's day; being always fat-test after their summer's feed.

Observe lastly, that after three or four days fishing, your game will grow very shy and timerous, and you will scarcely have a bite at a baiting; then desist for two or three days: and, in the place where you last baited, and intend to renew your baits, take a turf of short grass, about the bigness of a round trencher, and with a needle and green thread, fasten, one by one, as many little red worms as will almost cover the turf; then make a hole in the middle of a broad round trencher, and place the turf thereon; put a cord through it, and tie it to a pole. Let it, thus managed, sink down to the bottom of the water, for the fish to feed upon without disturbance for three or four days; and after that time, when you have drawn it away, you'll find sport almost beyond expectation.



*Of the FLOUNDER.*

**T**HE Flounder is originally a sea fish, without scales, which wanders very far into fresh rivers, and there dwells and loses himself, growing twice his length, and about as broad again, as when he quitted the sea. He is a very wholesome fish, and nutritive. The best are distinguished by red Spots. This fish affords much sport to the Angler.



*His Haunts.*

HE commonly frequents gravelly sandy bottoms; deep gentle streams, near the banks; or at the end of a stream, in a deep still place; or in a gentle stream that is somewhat brackish; and sometimes in the deepest stillest part of the river, near the bank; but not so frequent as in pretty swift or rather gentle streams.



*His Biting Time and Baits.*

THEY will bite at any small worm found in marshy ground and meadows, which should be well scoured. He is a crafty though greedy biter, and will nibble and suck at a bait sometime before he takes it; and if he perceives the hook will fly from it: therefore, let your bait be always in motion, which will make him more eager. They will bite all day, from sun-rise to sun-set.

*Observations on, the SEVERN  
FLOUNDER.*

IN March and April there are large quantities caught in the Severn. Their haunts, at that time of the year, are chiefly on sand-banks, where the water makes a return, which, in fact, is an eddy: there they lie in large shoals: but, as the summer advances, they move higher up the stream. They will travel far up the river, for great numbers have been caught near Bewdly, Bridgnorth, and Shrewsbury.  
But

But large Freshes in the river bring them down again.

IN March and April I generally catch the largest and the best Flounders, some weighing from half a pound to a pound and a quarter, and have caught twelve pounds in one eddy.

THE best bait for them is a well scoured red-worm. Your hook must not be large, for their mouth is very small. Your line should be twenty or twenty-five feet long, made of the best hemp-twine, strong and fine; except at the bottom of the line you must have about a yard and a half of hair line, well twisted; nine hairs in each link. I always fish with three hooks to a line, and three middling bullets, one at the top of each link the hooks are hung too: let the bullets be hollow, that the line may play, and you will easily see a bite of the smallest fish, for you frequently catch other fish as well as flounders, such as trout, samlets, salmon-spawn, gudgeons, &c.

THERE is a small brook called Hawford, which empties itself into Severn three miles above Worcester, in which large quantities are caught. It is a water they are fond of, being very brackish, owing to the brine which overflows the pits at Droitwich, and

and makes them firmer and better flavoured than those caught in the Severn.

THERE are three sorts of Flounders caught here: one with a back spotted with reddish spots; another brown; and one black on both Sides, but I believe they are nearly equal in goodness.

I FISH generally with twelve of those lines above described, laying them at proper distances one from the other, and have been found in constant employ for several hours together, for they bite in general pretty free, and make the Angler excellent diversion.



### *Of the BARBEL*

THE Barbel is so called from his barb or whistles at his mouth. He is a leather-mouth'd Fish; large; of a fine cast, and a handsome shape; with small scales, placed after a most exact and curious manner; but is not reckoned the best fish for eating, either for wholesomeness or taste: the male, however, is reputed much better than the female.

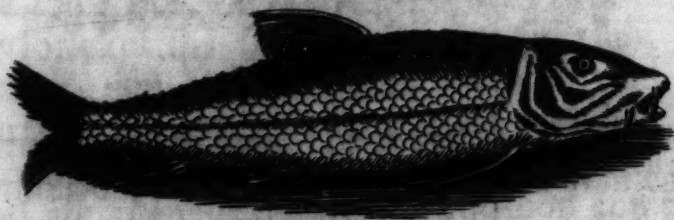
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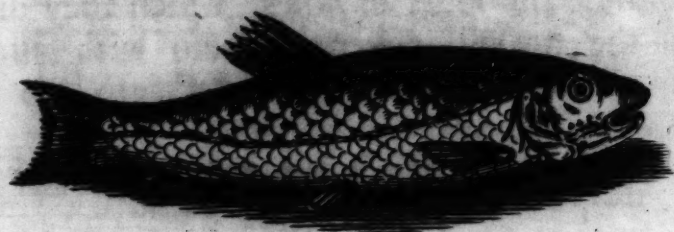




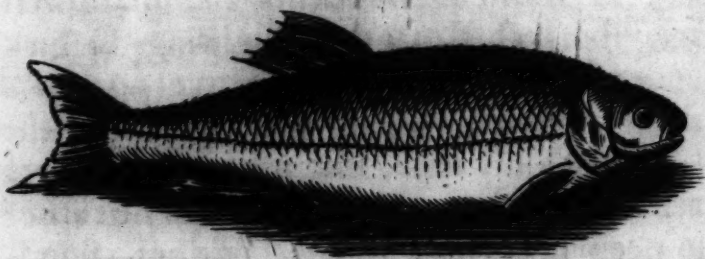
BARBEL



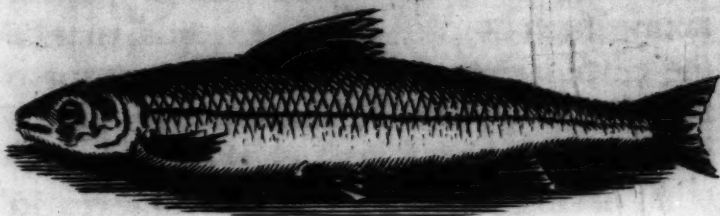
CHUB



ROACH



DACE





*Of the Spawning Time.*

THEY begin to spawn in April, and then are at the worst, but quickly become in season. They flock together like sheep. The milter and spawner mutually labour to hide the eggs in holes, which they dig in the gravel, covering them with sand, much like salmon.



*His Haunts.*

HE is able to live in the swiftest waters, and in summer frequents the shallowest and sharpest streams, delighting to lurk under weeds, and feed on gravel against a rising ground, rutting and digging in the sands with his nose, like a hog; and there nesting himself. Yet sometimes he retires to deep and swift waters, bridges, flood-gates, and wares, where he will nest himself amongst piles, or in hollow places, taking such hold of moss or weeds, that be the current ever so strong, it cannot force him from the place he contends for. This is his constant practice, when he and most other living creatures sport themselves in

the sun : but, at the approach of winter, he forsakes the swift streams and shallow-waters, and, by degrees, retires to those parts of the river that are quiet and deep, in which places, about April, they spawn, and are then at the worst, but soon come into season again.



*Of his Biting Time and Baits.*

THE Barbel and chub are reckoned the worst or coarsest of fresh-water fish ; but the Barbel affords the angler fine sport, being so lusty as frequently to endanger breaking the line, by running his head violently towards any covert, hole, or bank, then striking at the line with his tail to break it. He is also so cunning, as to nibble and suck off your bait, close to the hook, yet will avoid letting it come into his mouth. He is, likewise, very curious in his baits, for they must be clean and sweet, the worms well scoured, and not kept in sour or musty moists ; for he is a nice feeder. At a well scoured lob-worm he will bite as freely as at any other bait whatever, especially, if a night or two before you fish for him, you bait the place  
where

where you intend to angle with largeworms cut in pieces. Neither can you over-bait the place, nor angle too early or too late for him. Maggots, well scoured, are the best bait for him. Lastly, when you fish for the Barbel, use a long rod, of good strength, for you will find him difficult to deal with; yet when once struck he seldom or never breaks his hold.

He bites early, from sun-rise till ten o'clock in the morning, and from four in the evening till sun-set, sometimes later. Their principal biting months are, from the beginning of May till the latter end of August.

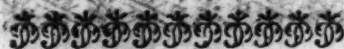


*Of the CHUB, CHEVIN, or BOT-  
LING; their Spawning Time, Sea-  
son and Shape.*

**T**HE Chub much resembles the carp, but only of somewhat a longer shape: his scales are very broad; his head short, and his teeth are in his throat. He will feed upon little fish or frogs.



ABOUT a fortnight before they spawn, if the weather be hot, they gather together in shoals, and appear on the top of the water; and likewise for a week or nine days after, if the weather be hot and bright. They spawn in the month of May, but I think they are not in season till the beginning of August, and so continue till the month of April, being in the greatest perfection in the winter months. You may slit and salt them, which makes them, in this part of the world, preferable to any salted fish whatever, as not having the quantity of hairy bones in them at that time, which they have in May, June, and July.



### *Their Haunts.*

THE Chub likes sandy or clay bottoms, large rivers, and shady streams: but their chief abode is in the angles, or deep holes where the water runs not very quick. They thrive much in ponds into which any rivulet runs.

*His*



*His Biting Time and Baits.*

H I S biting time is from sun-rising till ten in the morning, and from four in the afternoon till sun-set. He is caught, in the hot months, at bottom, with cow's brains, lob-worms, grass-hoppers, and cod-baits: and at the top, with the cannon, or down-hill-fly, the grass-hopper, caterpillar, may-fly, or ant-fly; these are all used in the manner of bobbing or dipping. You must be sure to place yourself out of sight behind some bush or tree, for the Chub will fly to the bottom of the water at the very shadow of your rod, being the most fearful of all fish, and will also make instantly to the bottom at the shadow of a bird flying over the water, but will presently arise, and lie floating on the top again; at which time move your rod slowly to the Chub you fish for: let your bait fall softly on the water three or four inches before him, and he will infallibly take it, for he is a leather-mouth'd fish, having his teeth, as said before, in his throat, out of which a hook scarce ever looseth its hold, and therefore give him play enough before

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before you offer to take him out of the water.

THERE are many baits to take a Chub; as, a black snail with its belly slit, to shew the white; sometimes a worm; or any kind of fly, as the ant-fly, flesh fly, dor, or beetle; or a bob, which is a short white worm, like to, but bigger than a gentil, or a cod, or case-worm. He will take any of these very well; and never refuses a grass-hopper at the top of a swift stream, or a young wasp-grub at the bottom. These grubs are found in the holes of banks, and discovered by the old ones going in and out; and are often found by the mowers, when cutting of grass: they must be boiled or baked before used. The Chub will likewise bite at red cherries, provided you bait the hole with them the night before you fish. You must be sure to make use of the same sized hook, and also the same sort of rod and line, as for a carp.

THE spawn of a Chub is excellent for eating. His head is the best part of him; and he cannot be dressed too soon after he is taken.

Of



*Of the ROACH and DACE.*

**T**H E Roach is so called from his red fins: he is a fish not much admired for his nice taste, but the spawn is reckoned the best part of him. He is a leather-mouth'd fish, having a sort of saw-like teeth in his throat. As the carp is stiled the water-fox for his cunning, so the Roach is called the water-sheep for his simplicity.

It is observable that the Roach and Dace recover strength, and are in season, about a fortnight after spawning; the barbel and chub in a month; the trout in four months; and the salmon in the same time; provided he returns to the sea, and comes back again into the fresh-waters.

RIVER Roaches are ever preferred to those in ponds: but the latter are usually of a larger breed. There are a sort of small bastard Roaches with a very forked tail, bred in some ponds, differing from the true Roach, as the pilchard does from the herring. The Roach make fine diversion, especially those of a larger size. They are

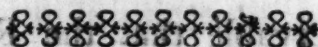


a very healthful fish, whence comes the proverb, "As sound as a Roach."

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*Their Spawning Time.*

THE Dace or Dare spawn about the tenth of March, and the Roach about the beginning of May. These fish are best in season from Michaelmas till Candlemas, and are very ordinary eating all the summer.



*Their Haunts.*

THE Roach and Dace love a gravelly sandy ground best; and lie in the clearest, deepest, and stillest waters, that are most shaded; and also among water-docks, and under water-lily leaves, especially in very hot sun-shine weather.



*Their Biting Time and Baits.*

THE Roach and Dace are to be fished for, in winter, with gentils or maggots;  
but

but, in April, with worms, and cadis, or flies, under water, for he seldom takes them on the top; though the Dace, in many of the hot months, will rise above water.

ROACHES may also be caught thus; take an ant-fly, sink him with a little lead to the bottom, near the piles of a bridge, or posts of a ware; or any deep place where they may lie quietly; pull your fly up very leisurely, and you'll have a Roach generally follow your bait to the very top of the water, gazing and running at it with the utmost eagerness. Thus are great store of Roach caught.

You may take both the Roach, Dace, or Dare, with the gentils, or young wasp-grub; but, when you fish with them, you must be sure to have a large hook, a quick eye, and a nimble hand, or the bait will be lost. They will bite at almost any fly, but chiefly the ant-fly.

IN the next place, I shall inform you of a winter-bait, for the Roach, Dace, or chub. If, about the beginning of November, or sooner, you follow the plow when at work upon heath or sandy ground, or turning up the green-swamp, or fresh land, you will find a white worm with a red head  
about

about the bigness of two maggots. It is all soft and full of whitish guts. This worm is called in many countries a grub, bred from the spawn or eggs of a beetle, which she digs in the ground under cow or horse dung; which remain there all the winter, and in March or April turn first to a red and then a black beetle. Gather a hundred or two of these: put them, with a peck or two of their own earth, into a small vessel, covering them down close, to preserve them from the cold and frost. Thus you may keep them all the winter, and kill fish with them at any time: yet I never found any bait, either in winter or summer, so good as maggots and gentils.

THERE is another excellent bait, which are chandlers-scratchings, or groats; it being very inconvenient for most anglers, who live not in a town, to provide maggots. The groat certainly is the best of baits, except the maggot, for winter fishing; and is to be managed thus: you must break them into middling pieces, in a kettle of cold water; then put them over a gentle fire till they are near boiling, which turns them almost white, and makes them very soft. Then you must bait the hole with some of them, and put the whitest round

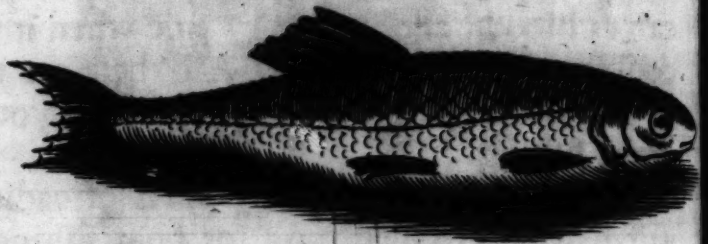




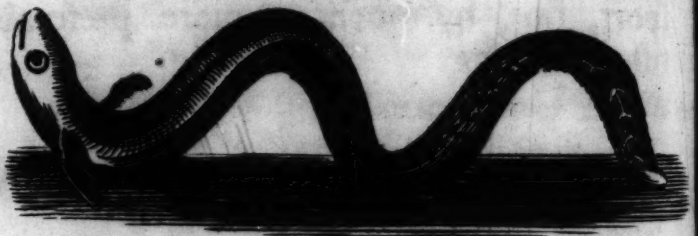
GUDGEON



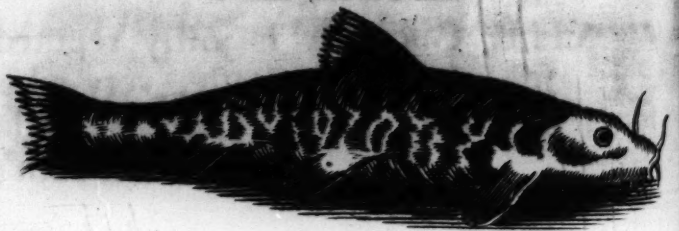
BLEAK



EEL



LOACH



round your hook ; thus angle with them as with a maggot ; and with a hook of the same size, that is, number six. Be sure you fish either on the bottom, or within an inch of it, for at that time of the year they lie very close and deep. These are certain baits from November to Candlemas, in case you cannot have maggots.

THERE are several other sorts of ground baits, as stewed malt, grains, sheep's and calves blood, chopped very fine when it is cool, and beasts brains. All these are to be used as ground-baits to prepare for your groat-fishing.

THERE are also many sorts of cadis-worms that are used most for float-fishing. But these baits are only for the trout or grayling, which is, not only much finer sport, but, by much, a more preferable fish for eating.



### *Of the GUDGEON.*

THE Gudgeon is justly reputed a fish of excellent taste, very wholesome and nourishing. He is leather-mouth'd ;

mouth'd; of a fine shape; and silver colour: both his body and tail are beautifully adorned with black spots.



*His Haunts and Spawning Time.*

THE Gudgeon is a river-fish, yet sometimes found in ponds that are fed by rills or springs. He delights most in gravelly or sandy ground, and in a slow stream. Though he inhabits large rivers, and oftentimes little brooks, yet he is chiefly to be found in small rivers of a fine sandy gravel bottom. In the hot months they lie in much shallower waters, but all the rest of the year, from Michaelmas till April, they dwell in the deepest places, that are most sandy.

THEY spawn in the latter end of April, or May; and, as some say, three or four times in a year.



*His Biting Time, and Baits,*

HE is an admirable fish to enter a young angler, being easily taken with small worms

worms and maggots. By mudding the water, and stirring up the sand with a pole you may draw them together in shoals, and, by now and then throwing in a few chopped worms or maggots, you may take great quantities of them: your bait must be on or near the ground.

THEY are usually scattered up and down the shallows of every river in the heat of summer; but in autumn, when the leaves begin to grow sour or rot, and the weather begins to be cold, they keep together in the deeper parts of the water; and if you angle for them with a float or cork, your hook must always touch the ground. But many fish for the gudgeon by hand with a running line upon the ground, without a float, and is an excellent way, if you have a tender rod and as gentle a hand.

HE bites all day long from March till Michaelmas, but will not bite in very cold weather, nor for some time after his spawning, nor immediately after a shower or land-flood. He bites well in gloomy, warm, or hot sun-shining weather, but seldom bites before sun-rising or after sun-setting, but commonly begins about an hour after sun rises, and ceases, about an hour before the sun sets, fearing lest he should



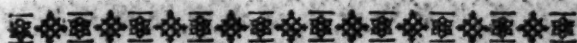
should be devoured by the larger kind of fish, which are, at that time, ranging for food.



*Of the RUFF, or POPE.*

**T**HE Ruff is a fish that is not found in all rivers. He very much resembles the perch in his shape, though he never attains to his size, yet he is not inferior in goodness. He is of a brown colour; somewhat dusky above, and of a pale yellow below; marked on the jaws with a double course of half circles: the upper part of the eye is of a dark brown, and the lower somewhat yellowish, and the ball of it black. All the body is rough, covered with sharp and prickly fins, which bristle up stiff, when he is angry, but when appeased they fall flat again. There goes a strait line along his back, and his fins and tail are speckled with black spots. This fish is much commended for the wholesomeness and delicacy of his food, being a very firm and good fish for his size, which is not larger than that of the gudgeon.

*His*



*His Haunts and Spawning Time.*

THE Ruff is a very greedy fish, and will bite very eagerly, and is therefore very proper game for the young angler. They lie, abundance of them together, in a reserved place, where the water is deep, and runs quietly; and when the young sportsman has once found out their haunt, he may catch forty or fifty, sometimes double that number at a standing: he spawns about the beginning of April.



*His Biting Time and Baits.*

YOU must angle for him with a small red worm; he bites at the same time, and is to be taken after the same manner as the perch: for both which kinds of fish the river Ware, which runs by Norwich is famous; they are also very plenty in the Oxfordshire rivers, and in the Teme which empties itself into the Severn, near Worcester,

Of

*Of the BLEAK.*

**T**HE Bleak, which is by some called the fresh-water sprat, is a fish ever in motion, and therefore is sometimes called the river swallow: for as the swallow is observed, in summer evenings, to be in constant motion, making quick and short turns upon the wing, the more easily to catch the flies in the air; so the Bleak is almost continually in action in the water, sporting himself with some little flies and insects that sport on the surface.

HE is of a bright whitish colour; his back of a pleasant sea-green, and his belly shining, and white as the mountain snow.

THE Bleak, though generally reckoned of little value, yet is a good fish, in my opinion, if dressed as soon as taken. He has been frequently used to make a sort of artificial anchovy, and is often sold for the real; but for want of skill in the management, by the common artists, he has lost much of his esteem.

THE

THE Bleak is to be angled for at mid-water, with a line and five or six small hooks, fastened at about the distance of half a foot one above the other. I have often taken four of them at one time by this means: the bait has been small well scoured maggots, than which none can be better. They may be taken with a very small, fine, artificial black gnat. It is very pretty sport to whip for them in a summer evening from a boat, or standing on the bank-side, in a swift water, with a hazle-top, about five or six feet long, and a line twice the length of the rod.



*Of the CHAR, and GUINIAD.*

IN Winander-meer, in the county of Westmorland, are caught a very singular sort of fish, called Char, which are found no where else in England or Ireland; but are said to be in two lakes at Snowden, in Wales.

IN a small but rapid river, called the Petterel, that runs near Carlisle, in the  
E adjoining



adjoining county of Cumberland, are caught trouts about the same size with the Char; that is, from a foot to eighteen inches: which are as fine in colour, and, when potted, are not easily distinguished in taste; and are frequently, by the inhabitants, sent to London, and sold as Char. They take the May fly of both sorts, the whirling dun, and indeed all the other flies in their season. This river falls into the Eden, about a mile, north-east from the city of Carlisle: and about the same distance from the city, westward, the river Gauda falls into the Eden. The trouts in this river are much larger than those in the Petterel; in which is a particular species of trout, called the whiting, or white trout: he has no spots, but is of a beautiful fine colour, and his flesh as red as the salmon; I believe he never exceeds twenty inches in length, for I never caught one above that length, nor did never converse with a brother sportsman that did. The whirling flies to be used in fishing for him cannot be too gay; they should be ribbed with gold or silver twist, and the cock's hackle over all, as rough as you please. In this river, as well as in the main river Eden, above the salmon fishery, is a sort of

of trout, called the brandling, clouded on the back like a mackerel, which never grows to be above seven or eight inches in length, and seems very much to resemble that sort of fish called gravel last-springs in the rivers Wye and Severn. In the east riding of Yorkshire is a small but rapid river called Duffield Beck, in which are the finest trouts, for size and quantity, of any water I ever fished in; being seldom less than two pounds, and often five or six pounds in weight.

THE river Dee which rises in Merionethshire, runs through Pemble-meer, in Cheshire, which is a large water, and abounds with a kind of fish called a Guinad, as the river Dee does with salmon: and yet it is remarkable, that there never are any salmon caught in the meer, nor any guinad in the river.



*Of the* EEL.

**T**HERE are three sorts of Eels, the Silver Eel, the Green Eel, and the Black Eel. The Silver Eel has a fine

dark brown back, and white belly; his head very small and spearing. The Green Eel has a back of a dark green colour, the belly of a whitish green; his head is broad and flat, like the beak of a duck. The Black Eel has a black back, yellow belly, and larger head than the two former, and is not reckoned very wholesome food, especially those found in muddy pools.

*The Silver Eel* commonly loves gravelly, sandy, or stony bottoms; they begin to come up the rivers in the beginning of April, if the weather be warm, where they will bite very well all the summer, till August, and continue till their return, which is between Michaelmas and Allhallowtide; according to the falling of the rains; and rising of the rivers and brooks; which disposes them to take their winter quarters in the sea, or salt waters.

It has been thought that Eels, having once tasted the sea water, never return back again, and therefore it is imagined that whatever numbers of them are taken at mills and other places, at their going down, can be no prejudice to the rivers; but this probably may be a mistake, for I have conversed with many millers and others,

others, whose business it is to catch Eels in their wheels and fisheries, who affirm that about twenty years ago they could take five times the quantity that they can now, which must be owing to the great numbers that have been taken of late years at the time of their running downwards. Those that happen to escape in their journey to the salt water, remain there till their time of breeding, which I take to be about the middle of April, or sooner.

*His Manner of Breeding, or  
Spawning.*

THERE has been a great variety of opinions about the breeding of Eels; some imagining that they are produced from the dew which falls on the water-side in the months of May or June, which being influenced and enlivened by the rays of the sun, is gradually formed into little Eels. Others have fancied, that when Eels grow old, they breed out of the corruption of their own age. But that and other such idle notions are exploded and justly ridiculed by naturalists; who, however,



ever, are not agreed among themselves whether the Eels breed in the oviparous or viviparous manner; that is, whether they proceed from spawn, (or eggs) as most other fish do, or whether the female produces them alive. To satisfy the curiosity of some of my readers, I shall give them the best information I could get in regard to this matter.

BEING acquainted with an elderly woman, who had been wife to a miller near fifty years, and much employed in dressing of Eels, I asked her, whether she had ever found any eggs or spawn in the Eels she opened: she said, she never had observed any; but that she had sometimes found living Eels in them about the bigness of a small needle; and, particularly, that she once took out ten or twelve, and put them upon the table, and found them to be alive; which was confirmed to me by the rest of the family. The time of year when this happened was (as they informed me) about a fortnight or three weeks after Michaelmas; which makes me of opinion that they go down to the sea or salt water, to prepare them for the work of producing and propagating their young.

To

To this I must add another observation of the same nature, which was made by a gentleman of fortune not far from Ludlow, and in the commission of the peace for the county of Salop, who going to visit a gentleman, his friend, was shewn a very fine large Eel that was to be dressed, about whose sides only he observed a parcel of little creeping things, which made him suspect it had been kept too long; but, on a nearer inspection, they were found to be perfect little Eels, or Elvers. Upon this it was immediately opened in sight of several other gentlemen, and, in the belly of it, they found a lump about as big as a nutmeg, consisting of an infinite number of those little creatures, closely wrapt up together, which being put into a bason of water, soon separated themselves, and swam about the bason. This has been often told to several gentlemen of credit in his neighbourhood, from whom I first received the account: but I have lately had the satisfaction of having it from his own mouth. Therefore I think this may serve to put the matter out of all doubt, and may be sufficient to prove that Eels are of the viviparous kind.

**DURING** the winter months, they never stir up or down the rivers or pools wherein they usually are, but get into the soft earth or mud, where many of them bed themselves together, the better to defend them against the severity of the weather, and there live, without feeding upon any thing (as is generally supposed). They seldom appear in the day time at other seasons of the year, unless the water be mudded, and raised a little by rain, but are usually caught in the night.

**THEY** are esteemed a very delicious fish for eating, and are in season all the year, but in their prime in May, June, and July. They have been known to live out of the water five days, the temperament of their bodies being very moist, as is that of many other fish whose shape and nature are very much like the Eel, and frequent both the sea and fresh rivers; as the lamprey, or lamper-eel, and also the large conger, or sea-eel, which are differently esteemed according to the difference of their taste. The large conger-eels are often taken in the Severn between Tewkesbury and Gloucester; and below Warrington, in Lancashire: but the river Stour, in Dorsetshire, the Aukam, in Lincolnshire, and

and Irk, in Lancashire, have the pre-eminence above their neighbouring streams for producing the best Eels.

THE Severn, and most navigable rivers that have a communication with the sea, abound with infinite numbers of small Eels or Elvers, which come up the river sides early in the spring, as soon as the sun begins to warm the water. These are taken in large quantities, particularly in the Severn, and are made up in little cakes, and sold in the markets. They call the coming up of these little Eels, (which is very exact and regular as to time) the Elvers running. This little fry is, without doubt, produced in the salt water, by the Eels that retire thither in autumn.



*His Biting Time and Baits.*

T H E R E are four sorts of baits for taking Eels at bank-hooks, viz. the lob-worm, loach, minnow, and bull-head. The best season for this is from the middle of May to the latter end of July; when the weather cannot be too warm, nor the night too dark. One very good way for this sort of sport is, to have a strong line



that will reach across the river or pond; then take several hooks, with links to them about three quarters of a yard in length, and tie them to your line about two yards distance. When your hooks are baited, fasten one end of your line to the bank, near the river, with a hooked stick; then having a peice of lead or stone fastened to the other end of the line, cast it across the river or pond, and let it lie all night. With any of these three baits, if sweet and fresh, you will infallibly have sport. Or, you may use any of the above-mentioned baits, with a line about a yard long, fastened to the small end of a hooked stick, and the hook of it stuck into the bank; and this method is indeed most properly called bank-hook fishing. Or else, you may make ties of three or four yards in length, to be thrown in at the tops and bottoms of streams, with a stone at each end and baited in the same manner as the former.

THERE is another method to take Eels, which is called proaching, and is to be used from four o'clock, after a hot day, till sun-set. For this purpose, you must have a strong top rod, about a yard long, with a goose-quill put over the end of it, leaving the extreme end of the quill whole:

whole: then take a large and strong needle, and a cat-gut for the line; whip it very fast from the eye of the needle to the middle: then taking a large well scoured lob-worm, run the eye of the needle all up the worm, till it comes to the very head; so that the point of the needle may come out at the middle of the worm; then put the point of the needle into the top of the quill, and take the top rod and line both in your hand together. Thus you may guide your bait under any hollow wall or stone very gently, and if there be any Eel he will bite at it. Give him time enough till he has gorged, and then you may be sure of him, if you do not attempt to pull him out of his hole too suddenly; for he lies enfolded therein, and will, with the help of his tail, break off, unless you give him time to be wearied with pulling; and when he is so, you may pull him slowly and gently out.

THE best way of taking Eels by common angling, is to take a well scoured red-worm, and a hook of the size N°. 4, with a float-line a foot shorter than the rod; and having fixed upon some still quiet place, with the most sandy bottom you

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can find, take with you a considerable quantity of wasp-grubs boiled, or bullock's brains chopped fine, to bait your hole with. You must not forget to take another rod and line, and bait the one with the worm, and the other with the wasp-grub; by which means you will be sure to find which they take best.

THERE are a great many baits to take Eels, but I look on these I have mentioned to be as good as if you tried an hundred sorts. This is all I shall say of the Eel.



### *Of the MINNOW, or PINK.*

THE Minnow when right in season, and not sick, which happens only just after spawning, is of a sort of dappled or waved colour; his sides inclining to a greenish and sky-colour, his belly milk white, and his back almost black.

THESE little fish are all without scales, but for excellency of taste may be compared with any of the larger sized. They are usually full of eggs or spawn all the summer

summer months; for they bred often, and quickly arrive at their full growth and perfection. Their numerous and frequent breeding is very necessary on account of their being a prey and baits for other fish.

He is a very eager biter at a small worm; and, in hot weather, makes excellent sport for young anglers, boys, or women that love the recreation. He appears first in March, and continues to Michaelmas, and then betakes himself to mud, weeds, or wood in the rivers, to secure himself from floods and fishes of prey.

His biting time is from an hour after sun-rising, till an hour before sun setting. His chief bait is a small worm, either at mid-water or near the bottom. Use a float in angling for him.



### *Of the LOACH.*

**T**HE Loach is of a delicate taste, and very wholesome: he breeds and feeds in little, clear, and swift brooks or rills



rills, living on the gravel, and in the sharpest streams.

His growth is not above a finger's length, and his thickness proportionable. He somewhat resembles the eel in shape; has a beard or whattles, and a mouth formed like the barbel; he has two fins on his sides, four at his belly, and one at his tail, and is dappled with many black and brown spots.

THIS fish is usually full of eggs or spawn, and is esteemed very nourishing, and grateful to the palate and stomach of sick persons.

HE is to be fished for with a very small worm at the bottom, for he seldom or never rises above the gravel.



### *Of the BULL-HEAD, or MILLER'S-THUMB.*

**T**HE Bull-head is a fish of no pleasing shape, and resembles the sea-toad fish. His head is large and flat, very disproportionable to his body; his mouth wide, and usually gaping; he  
has

has no teeth, but his lips are rough like a file: he has two fins near his gills, which are roundish or crested, two under his belly, two on his back, one below the vent, and the tail fin is round. He is speckled with whitish, blackish, and brownish spots.

THEY are generally full of eggs or spawn all the summer, which swell their vents almost into the form of a dug, and they begin to spawn about the beginning of April.

THEY hide themselves in holes, or among stones in clear water, and are easily seen upon any flat stone, and on the gravel, at which time the most inexpert angler may take them with a small worm. They are more commended for their taste and nourishment, than for their shape or beauty.



*Of the STICKLEBACK, or JACK-SHARP.*

THIS is a very small insignificant fish. His body is fenced with several little prickles, which are very sharp.

sharp and pungent, and from whence he has his name.

THIS fish is mentioned only because he makes up one of the number of fresh water fish, being too inconsiderable to afford the angler any sport, unless it be to serve as a bait for a trout, to be used with a swivel line, for which purpose he is equally good as the minnow.



### *Of the LAMPREY.*

THIS fish comes up out of the salt water about the same time as the shad, and is of little service to the diversion of the angler, refusing all kinds of baits: and is usually taken in wheels or baskets, made of twigs, and fastened to the bottom of the water for that purpose.

THE Lamprey may very properly be said to be the fresh water viper, from the uncommon highness and delicacy of his flavour; for which reason they are commonly sold at an excessive price at their first coming, and, when stewed or potted, are greatly admired by the curious.

He is commonly of the size and length of a large eel, but somewhat rounder and fuller in the body. His back and sides are clouded and variegated like the mackrel. He has a roundish open mouth, of a disagreeable form, though necessary for the purpose of his subsistence, which is by suction, for which reason he has several large round holes on each side, for the reception and emission of water. They are very plentiful in the Severn about Gloucester and upwards, as far as Worcester.

THERE is another sort, which are commonly taken about November, called Lamperns, which are exactly of the same form and shape, but much less, not exceeding the thickness of one's thumb: they are generally thought to differ from the Lamprey in the same manner as the samlet does from the salmon.



*Of the* SHAD.

THE Shad is a fish that comes up out of the salt water early in the spring into the large rivers that have a commu-



communication with the sea, and is very differently esteemed according to the rivers he comes into. In the Severn, he is a very delicious good fish, especially the large ones, and, by some, not reckoned inferior to the salmon: whereas in the Thames, about London, he is disregarded as a coarse fish, good for little, except the brightness of his scales, which are frequently made into necklaces, pretty near the resemblance of pearl.

HE has a small head in proportion to his size; a thick back, and a deep-broad body growing taper towards the tail: and is in season from the time of his coming up till the middle of May, when the heat of the weather makes him lean and full of small bones.

HE affords the angler no sport, taking no bait that I know of, otherwise would have deserved a description among the best kinds of fish. There is an instance of a gentleman who caught one with an artificial fly in the river Teme, near Worcester, but I imagine he took it more out of wantonness than hunger.



O F

# FLY-FISHING;

With Directions for making the

## ARTIFICIAL FLY.

**I** AM now come to the most entertaining and delightful part of the sportsman's diversion, Fly-fishing; of which nothing can be said too much in commendation. If the other branches of angling are both pleasant and profitable, this is much more so on many accounts. It is the cleanest and neatest that can possibly be imagined, being quite free from the trouble of baiting your hook, or fouling your fingers. The exercise it requires you to take is moderate and gentle, not being confined long to any one part of the river, but moving from stream to stream. The fish that are caught in this manner, are of the best and most delicate sorts,  
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himself, from one of those won M A I  
 training and beautiful part of the

consideration. If the other branches of

**THE Red Fly. Black Gnat.**

*Blue-dun Fly. Black Caterpillar Fly.*

**Brown Fly** and **Iron-blue Fly.** of 1807

*Cow-dun Fly.* 0 was 01 *Sally Fly.* 1100 0100

Stone Fly, (misr) mor Canon, or Down-hill

*Granam Fly.* *Fly.*

*Spider Fly.* *Sborn Fly.*

*May*

|                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>May Fly.</i>               | <i>Large Red Ant.</i>        |
| <i>Gray Drake.</i>            | <i>Large Black Ant.</i>      |
| <i>Orl Fly.</i>               | <i>Welshman's Button.</i>    |
| <i>Sky-coloured Blue Fly.</i> | <i>Little Red Ant.</i>       |
| <i>Caddis Fly.</i>            | <i>Little Black Ant.</i>     |
| <i>Fern Fly.</i>              | <i>Little Whirling Blue.</i> |
| <i>Red Spinner.</i>           | <i>Little Pale Blue.</i>     |
| <i>Blue Gnat.</i>             | <i>Willow Fly.</i>           |

THESE are all very tempting and certain Flies, which the angler may depend upon for sport, and which I shall presently describe in their regular seasons. There are many other Flies taken notice of in some treatises of angling, which may possibly be of use in some rivers; the principal of which I shall just mention to satisfy the curiosity of my brother anglers; but I never think it worth while to make any of them artificially.

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>The Dun fly.</i>      | <i>Dark drake fly.</i>  |
| <i>Ruddy fly.</i>        | <i>Dark-brown fly.</i>  |
| <i>Black fly.</i>        | <i>Prime dun fly.</i>   |
| <i>Sandy-yellow fly.</i> | <i>Black May palmer</i> |
| <i>Moorish fly.</i>      | <i>worm.</i>            |
| <i>Twine fly.</i>        | <i>Camlet fly.</i>      |
| <i>Wasp fly.</i>         | <i>Oak fly.</i>         |
| <i>Shell fly.</i>        | <i>Owl fly.</i>         |

*Brown*



*Brown gnat.      Hearth fly.*  
*Green shining flesh fly. Badger fly.*  
*Harry long legs.      Yellow-dun fly.*

THESE are mentioned, as I said, only for curiosity or variety; therefore, I proceed to the description of those in my first catalogue.



*The* **RED FLY.**

**C**OMES down the latter end of February, and continues till the middle of March.

HE is made of a dark drake's feather; and the body of a red hackle, and the red part of a squirrel's fur. He has four wings, and they lye flat on his back.

HE comes on very plentifully in cold stormy days.

*The*



*The* BLUE-DUN FLY.

**C**OMES down in the beginning of March; and will kill fish, in the forenoon, till the middle of April.

He is made of a blue duck's feather, or starling's wing, with a blue cock's hackle; the dubbing, yellow mohair, mixed with the blue fur of a fox.

As he swims down the water, his wings stand upright on his back: his tail is forked, and of the colour of his wings. He comes down about ten o'clock, and continues till twelve, in great quantities; but is always thickest on the water in cloudy gloomy days.

You may fish with a worm in the morning till the flies come down, which will not vary above half an hour, or an hour, from the time mentioned; and then, if the water be in order for the fly, is your time to begin to use it,

*The*

*The BROWN FLY, or DUN DRAKE.*

**B**E G I N S to come down about the middle of March, and continue till the middle of April, if the weather be favourable.

He is made of a partridge or pheasant's feather; the body of a partridge's hackle, with hare's fur under it, ribbed with yellow silk. This fly was formerly made of a dun drake's feather, with hare's fur only, which, in my opinion, is not the colour of the fly.

THE red fly, the blue fly, and the Brown Fly, frequently appear upon the water all at one time; but there is no necessity of fishing with the red fly after they have tasted the blue fly. They take the blue fly in a morning, till the Brown Fly comes on, which he does about eleven, and then they take the Brown till two or three o'clock. In this order they continue till the latter end of the month.

THERE are four or five sorts of flies in April which I shall mention immediately; only observe in general, that the fly which comes

comes first according to the month, is the first fly that is to be used that day, and then you will see the other flies coming on according to their time; and you may observe the fish take the former, and leave the latter. Thus they continue their succession in their several days, weeks, and months.



*The* COW-DUNG FLY,

**C**OMES on about the middle of March, and continues till the latter end of April, but it is not to be fished with unless it be a cold windy day.

His wings are made with the blue feather of a hen tipped with yellow; they lie flat on his back: his body is made of lemon colour'd mohair, with a yellow feather about it.

He is to be made in the same form as the large horse ant fly.





*The* STONE FLY,

**C**OMES in the beginning of April, and continues to the latter end of May. He is chiefly to be fished with from about the break of day till seven in the morning: likewise from seven in the evening all night long (if thought proper) either in the natural or artificial way.

THEY are found in little stony brooks, and must be fished with (in the natural way) upon a small worm hook, and drawn upon the shank of it, with a line about a yard longer than the rod, and used in a middle water.

THIS fly is made of the brown feather of a hen. His belly is of a dirty yellow, and his back of the dark brown. His body is made of a yellow or brown spaniel's hair, or Mohair, with the grizzled hackle of a cock round it.

THIS fly, natural or artificial, is to be fished with in deep rapid streams.

*The*

*The* GRANAM FLY, or GREEN  
TAIL.

**T**HIS fly comes about the beginning of April, if the weather be mild: they appear upon the water in great quantities in bright mornings; but in cold stormy days there are but few of them to be seen: and then is the time to use the brown fly. The Granam Fly is tender, and unable to endure the cold; its continuance on the water is not above a week or nine days.

THIS fly is made of a feather out of the wing of a pheasant, which is full of fine shades, resembling the wings of this fly, which lie flat on his back as he swims down the water: his body is made of the black part of hare's fur, with a peacock's harl over it, and the grizzled hackle of a cock wrapped twice round, under the butt of the wings.

SOME frequently make this fly with a green tail, which I could never find to be of any service. The green tail fly is the female, which loses its tail as soon as it

lights upon the water. I take this to be the egg of the fly, for I have caught two of them which have been joined together, and put them into a box for twenty-four hours: upon opening the box, I found they were parted, and that one of them had a small lump of green at its tail, about the bigness of a pin's head; this I kept twelve hours longer, when the green part came from it like an egg. This induces me to think it is the female fly; and I presume that most other flies breed after the same manner.



### *The SPIDER FLY,*

**C**OMES about the middle of April, if it be a favourable spring.

THE wings are made of a woodcock's feather, that lies under the butt end of the wing; the body of lead-coloured silk, with a black cock's hackle wrapped twice or thrice round: the body must be made in the shape of the ant fly.

THIS fly appears in bright and warm days, and comes out of beds of gravel by the

the water-side, where you may find them in bunches from the middle to the latter end of the month, in warm sun-shining days; but in cold and stormy weather they disappear.

DURING their season, they are found covered up in beds of gravel, and all engendering, in order for their production next year.

THIS fly is never seen in any month of the year but April.



### *The* BLACK GNAT.

**H**E begins to appear about the middle of April.

HIS wing is to be made of a light sky-coloured blue hackle; the body of an ostridge's feather.

THIS gnat is to be used in cold stormy days, and continues till the latter end of May.

**B**EING to come down early in the morning, and **F 3** about the middle of the month.



*The BLACK CATERPILLER FLY,*

**C**OMES about the middle of April, if the weather be warm.

His wings are made of a jay's feather, one part blue and the other part black; and his body of a feather out of the top of a plover, with a dark hackle over it. The body of this fly is of a fine shag like velvet, which the plover's feather makes incomparably well.

He continues till the middle of May, and is to be fished with after warm mornings, provided there come winds and clouds; for then they grow weak for want of the sun, and fall upon the water in great numbers.

*The LITTLE IRON BLUE FLY,*

**B**EGINS to come down early in May, and is in greatest perfection about the middle of the month. There

are

are few of them to be seen in warm or hot weather, but in cold or stormy days they come in great quantities.

THE wing of this fly is made of a cormorant's feather that lies under the wing, in the same form as those of a goose: the body is made with the furr of a wount or mole, or rather a water-rat's furr, if you can have it, ribbed with yellow silk, and a grizzle hackle wrapped twice or thrice round. His wings stand upright on his back, with a little forked tail.

THIS fly is greatly admired by the grayling; and continues from the middle of May to the middle of June.



*The YELLOW SALLY FLY,*

**A**PP E A R S about the middle of May, and continues till the latter end of the same month.

His wings are made of a yellow cock's hackle, by reason of its shining glossiness, which no dyed colour can come up to; he has four wings which lie flat upon his back:

his body is made with yellow dubbing, mixed with dark brown fur, and a yellow hackle round it.

THIS fly, the canon fly, and the thorn fly, are the three flies that prepare the fish to look for the yellow cadow, or May fly.



### *The CANON FLY,*

**C**OMES down about a fortnight in May, and is an exceeding good fly for bobbing at the bush in the natural way, or for the long line in the artificial. He continues till the yellow cadow comes down, and is to be found on the butts of oaks, and other trees near the water-side, with his head commonly downwards; for which reason he has generally obtained the name of the Down-hill fly.

HIS wings are made of a feather out of a woodcock's wing; and his body of a bittern's feather.

THIS fly (as I have lately been informed by a gentleman of veracity) is bred in the balls that grow on the boughs of large oaks,

oaks, commonly called oak-apples: this he accidentally discovered by opening several of these balls, (that had been gathered in the winter, and brought into the house) in each of which he found the Canon Fly: some of them, being enlivened by the warmth of the room, immediately took flight, and fixed in the window with the head downwards, the position they observe in the trees.



*The SHORN FLY.*

**T**HIS fly comes about the same time with the former, and continues till the middle of June. He is frequently found in mowing of grass, and a husky wing of a dark brown colour, with fine clear blue wings underneath, which he makes use of in his flight.

THIS fly is of the caterpillar kind: the female fly is of a dull red. They are in the greatest perfection about mowing time, for after the grass is cut few are to be seen. It is as killing a fly as any I know till the May fly comes in, yet has been taken but



very little notice of by anglers, though it is the only fly to fish with in the forenoon, before the yellow cadow comes down. His continuance on the water is the same as the yellow cadow.

THE wings of this fly are made of a jay's feather, taken out of the wing, mixed with a little black and blue; and the body is made of flesh coloured silk, and a red hackle about it.

THIS fly will never fail killing fish, if the water be in order.

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### *The MAY FLY, or YELLOW CADOW.*

HE comes down the water about a week in May, but is not in full perfection till the twentieth, or between that and the thirtieth; and is a prodigious killing fly, as well upon standing water as upon streams.

THE wings of this fly are made of the feather of a grey drake dyed yellow; the body is made of the yellow wool of a ram

or

or wheather, ribbed with a dark-brown, which no feather suits so well as the hackle of a bittern; it likewise makes the legs very artificially; his head, which is of a dark-brown, is made with a peacock's harl: his wings stand upright on his back as he swims down the water, with a long forked tail, made with the hair or wisks of a fitchow. He is a very large fly, and is to be made upon a small worm-hook, of the size commonly called by anglers N°. 4.

THIS fly is most plentiful in gravelly or stony rivers, and but few to be seen on dead dull waters. He and the grey drake (which succeeds him) are the fishes chief delight above all others; for there is no other bait, either fly or insect, which the fish shew themselves at so much or so boldly: they not only take them at the top of the water, but as they come from the bottom and sides where they are bred in husks, which they quit when they rise to the top of the water.

DURING their season they are a most plentiful feed for birds as well as fish. They come upon the water about ten o'clock, and continue to sun-setting; and though there are hundreds of flies and insects on the river the same day, both fish

and birds will forsake them all and take these.

It has been an opinion generally received among my brother anglers, that the May Fly proceeds from the cod-bait; but I find by experience that this is a very great mistake, for the cod-bait produces a very different fly, call'd the cadis, or cod-bait fly, which I shall presently have occasion to describe. I have lately had an opportunity of convincing some gentlemen very curious in the art, who were of that opinion till they had the satisfaction of seeing the cadis flies produced from cod-baits: which I sent for that purpose about the time of their change. The May Fly, when in embrio, is inclosed in a longer and much smaller husk, which is sharp, and pointed at one end like a cock's spur.

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### *The GREY DRAKE.*

**T**HE Grey Drake comes about a week or nine days after the former, if the weather be cool; but if it be hot and sultry, he will be on in two or three

three days after the yellow fly : but you must not mind him, to fish with him, till four or five days after he is come, except it be in the evenings, from six o'clock to sun-setting. For, though the fish take the yellow one very well in the former part of the day, yet when they come on in great quantities in the evenings, they will not touch them.

IN fishing with this fly, you must endeavour to imitate the rising and falling of him upon the water, for he never swims so regularly as the yellow one, but is generally in motion, frisking up and down; for which reason he is, in some places, called the Tilt-up fly.

SOME are of opinion that this is a very difficult fly to make ; but, I think, it is not so difficult to make him as to fish with him after he is made: therefore, if possible, cast your line so as to drop directly over the fishes head, which will best resemble the method of this fly's dropping on the water, when the fish immediately fly at him : all other flies should be thrown a yard about the head of the fish, because they all swim gradually down the water.

THE wings of this fly are made with part of a grey drake's feather, mixed with the  
grey



grey part of a widgeon's feather: the body is best made of a fine oaten straw, because it is least liable to change its colour. Several make it with white cotton, but if you make it thus, there must be a good deal of silver twist with it. Besure you rib it very thick towards the tail with the the dark hackle of a bittern, and leave the body clear towards the but end of the wing. His tail is three forked, about an inch and a half long, and is made with the long hairs or wicks of a fitchow's tail: his head is of a dark brown, and made of a peacock's harl.

THE male and female fly of the yellow sort are both of the same colour, but of the grey are somewhat different: the female is best made of the oaten straw, with a light grey drake's feather for the wing; and the male with most of the widgeon's feather for the wing, and the body of silver twist with a little cotton.

SINCE I entered upon this work, the following ingenious account of this fly has been communicated to me, by a gentleman who is a very accurate observer of the productions of nature; which, as it may be matter of curiosity and entertainment to some

some of my readers, I shall here give it them, as briefly, and as near his own words as I can.

I HAPPENED to walk by the river-side at that season of the year when the May flies, (he means the grey sort) which are a species of the libella, come up out of the water, where they lie in their husks for a considerable time, at the bottom or sides of rivers, near the likeness of the nymph of the common small libella; but when it is mature it splits open its case, and then, with great agility, up springs the new little animal, with a slender body, four blackish, veined, transparent wings, the upper ones having four black spots, and being much larger than the under ones; and three long hairs in its tail. The husks which are left behind float innumerable upon the water.

It seemed to me to be a species of ephemeron, and I imagined it to be the same insect described by Goodart and Swammerdam: but a few days convinced me of the contrary, for I soon found them to be of longer duration than theirs.

THE first business of this creature, after he is disengaged from the water, is to look out for a proper place to fix on, to wait another  
surprising

surprising change, which is effected in two or three days. The first hint I received of this operation was seeing the exuviae hanging upon a hedge: I then collected a great number of the insects, and put them into boxes, and by strictly observing them, I could tell when they were ready to put off their cloaths, though but so lately put on. I had the pleasure to shew my friends one that I held on my finger all the while it performed this great work. It was surprising to see how easily the back part of the fly split open and produced the new birth, which I could not perceive partook any thing of its parent, but left head, body, wings, and even its three hair'd tail behind on the case. After it has repoled itself a-while it flies to seek its mate.

IN the new fly a remarkable difference is seen in the sexes, which I could not so easily perceive in the first state; the male and female being then much of a size, but now the male was much the smallest, and the hairs in his tail longest.

I was very careful to see if I could discover them engendering; but all that I find was, that the males separated and keeping under cover of the trees remote from the river: Either the females resorted, and

and mixed with them in their fight (great numbers together) with a very brisk motion; darting at one another, when they met, with great vigour, just as house flies will do in a sunny room. This they continued to do for many hours, and this seemed their way of coition, which must be quick, and soon performed, as they are of short duration. When the females were impregnated, they left the company of the males, and sought the river, constantly playing up and down on the water. It was very plainly seen every time they darted down they ejected a cluster of eggs, which seemed a pale blueish speck, like a small drop of milk, as it descended in the water; then, by the help of their tail, they spring up again, and descend again; and thus continue, till they have exhausted their stock of eggs, and spent their strength, being so weak that they can rise no more, but fall a prey to the fish; but much the greatest number perish on the waters, which are covered with them. This is the end of the females. The males never resort to the rivers, as I could perceive, but after they have done their office, drop down, languish, and die under the trees and bushes.



I observed that the females were most numerous, which is very necessary, considering the many enemies they have during the short time of their existence, for both birds and fish are very fond of them; and, no doubt, under water they are a food for small aquatic insects.

WHAT is further remarkable in this surprising creature is, that in a life of a few days it eats nothing, seems to have no apparatus for that purpose, but brings up with it out of the water, sufficient support to enable it to shed its skin, and perform the principal end of its life with great vivacity.

THE particular time when I observed them very numerous and sportive, was on the 26th of May, about 6 o'clock in the evening. It was a sight very surprising and entertaining, to see the river teeming with innumerable pretty, nimble, flying insects, and almost every thing near covered with them. When I looked up into the air, it was full of them as high as I could discern: being so thick and always moving, they appeared as when one looks up and sees snow coming down. This wonderful sight, in three or four days after the end of May, totally disappeared.

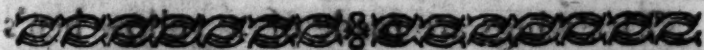


*The ORLE FLY.*

**C**OMES down the latter end of May, or the beginning of June, and continues till the latter end of June, and is the best fly to fish with after the May flies are gone.

THE wings of this fly are made of a dark grizzel'd cock's hackle; his body of a peacock's harl, with very dark red silk. He has four wings, which lie flat on his back as he swims down the water.

THIS fly is to be fished with in the warmest weather, and you may use it with success from ten o'clock till four in the afternoon, at which time the fish leave off the Orle Fly, and take the sky-coloured Blue.



*The SKY-COLOURED BLUE FLY,*

**I**S on at the same season with the former, but never appears in the evening, after a very hot day.

His

His wings are made of the feather of a light blue hen, with a yellowish gloss: the body seems, as he flies, of a bright yellow; but is made of a light blue fur, mixed with a bright yellow, with a silver grizzel'd hackle over it.

This fly comes on about the middle of June, and continues till the middle of July.



### *The CADIS FLY,*

**W**HICH I before mentioned to proceed from the cod-bait, begins to come about a week in June; and is a large fly, having four pale-yellow wings, all of one colour, and a pale yellow body, ribbed with dark brown.

The wings are made of a yellow hen's feather: the body, of a buff-colour yellow fur, ribbed with dark brown silk, and a yellow hackle three times round.

This fly continues till about a week in July before they are all gone; and is to be fished with at the clearing of the wa-

ter,

ter, after it has been discoloured, when no other fly will do so well.

THE dwelling place of this little creature, while in the state of a grub, is greatly to be admired; being a small-husk curiously wrought on the outside with small bits of gravel and slime, after the manner of stucco work. The grub itself is a very choice bait at bottom fishing, as will be shewn hereafter.



### *The* FERN FLY.

THE Fern Fly comes in about the latter end of June, and does not continue above a week. He has four wings that stand upright on his back.


His wings and body are made of a woodcock's feather, ribbed with orange coloured silk.

HE is to be fished with in a morning, the first of any fly, till about eleven o'clock, and then you may change your fly according to the brightness or dullness of the day, for there are many flies on at that time.

*The*



## 118 *The* ART of ANGLING;




### *The* RED SPINNER.

**H**E comes down the beginning of July, and continues till the middle of that month.

He is to be fished with only in the evenings of very hot days.

THE wings are made of a grey drake's feather, lightly tinged with a yellow gloss; the body is made of a gold twist, with a red hackle over it.



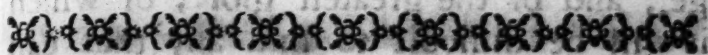
### *The* BLUE GNAT,

**A**PPEARS at the same time as the red spinner.

It does not avail to fish with him, unless the water be very low and fine; and then, in hot weather he is sometimes taken very eagerly.

THE wings of this gnat are made of a light blue cock's hackle, the body of the blue furr of a fox mixed with some yellow.

*The*



*The LARGE RED ANT FLY,*

**A**S well as the black, comes in about the middle of June, if the weather be hot, and continues for about a week or nine days. Observe that these two Ant Flies that come first, are the large horse ants.

THE wings of this Red Fly are made of a feather out of the wing of a starling, of a dusky colour: the body of hog's down, died of an amber colour. He must be made very large at the tail, and small towards the wing: with a red cock's hackle wrapped twice round under the butt end of the wing.



*The LARGE BLACK ANT FLY,*

**C**OMES down at the same time as the red one.

THE wings of this fly are made of the lightest sky-coloured blue feather you can get,

get, and of the greatest gloss; of which it will be difficult to find any that can come up to the natural wing: the body is made of an ostridge's black feather, and a black cock's hackle wrapped twice round under the wing. This fly is to be made in the same form as the red one.



### *The WELSHMAN'S BUTTON.*

**T**HE Welshman's Button, or Hazle Fly, comes in the latter end of July. It has an outer husky wing, and a small blue one under it; and is round as a button, from whence it has its name.

THEY are found upon hazle-trees and fern bushes; and as soon as the bushes are touched they drop down. They are as good for hobbing at the bush in this month, as the canon, or down hill fly is in May.

THE wing is made of a dark hackle feather of a pheasant; and the body of the dark part of camel's hair.

*The*

*G5N/22 \* G5N/22 G5N/22 G5N/22 \* G5N/22*

*The LITTLE RED and BLACK  
ANT FLIES.*

**T**HEY come down the beginning of August; but very seldom appear on the water till between one and four in the afternoon.

THEY are made of the same materials that the large ones are, and in the same shape, but only half so large.



*The LITTLE WHIRLING BLUE.*

**C**OMES down the beginning of August, and continues about a fortnight.

THE wings are made of the blue feather of a sea-gull; and the body of the red part of a squirrel's furr, ribbed with yellow, and a red hackle over it.

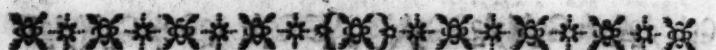
THIS fly is only to be used in the evening, and in warm weather

*2H*

*G*

*The*

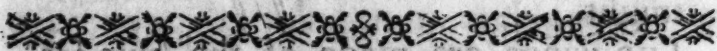


*The* LITTLE PALE BLUE.

**H**E comes down the beginning of August, and continues till the middle of September. It is a fly that the graylings greatly admire, which are in perfection at this season, and afford the angler much sport.

The wings of this fly are made of the lightest blue feather of a sea-swallow: the body is made of the bluest part of a fox's furr, with a very little yellow mohair mixed with it, ribbed with a straw-coloured silk, and a fine pale-blue hackle over it.

THIS fly continues till the willow fly comes, and afterwards till the weather grows cold.

*The* WILLOW FLY.

**T**HIS fly comes on the middle of August, or sometimes sooner, and continues till the dun blue comes again.

HE

HE has four wings which lie flat on his back: his belly of a dirty yellow, and his back of a dark brown,

HIS wings are made of a dun cock's hackle a little freckled; his body of squirrel's furr, ribbed with yellow silk, and covered lightly with the same coloured hackle as the wings.

IN cold stormy days you must chiefly use this fly; but in warm gloomy days you must fish with the pale blue, and these two flies carry out the season for fly-fishing.

FROM the latter end of May till the beginning of August, you will find fifteen or sixteen different sorts of gnats and flies on the water every day: and then, if the weather be warm, you must observe it as a general rule, to fish with the first fly that comes on in a morning; and then you will see the other flies coming down gradually: and, as the fish leave off one and take another you must vary your fly according to your discretion and observation. From about the middle of August you will find most of the other flies fall off, except the little whirling blue, the pale blue, the willow fly, and some small gnats that are of little or no signification; and

and these three autumn flies I reckon to be of equal value to the three first spring flies, viz. the red fly, the blue dun, and the brown drake. In these two seasons, if the weather and water be favourable, you will find your sport more regular and certain than in the hotter months; one reason of which, among others, is, that in the hotter months the rivers abound with a great variety of insects, which makes the fish more difficult to be taken; and in the spring you have the advantage of having the river fuller of fish, before they are disturbed with nets, &c.

THE flies that I have mentioned, are found on all rivers that ever I was acquainted with; only the May fly and grey drake are much more scarce on some rivers than others; and therefore, where they are scarce, and the fish not well acquainted with them, less sport is to be expected than where they are plentiful. It is commonly said, that flies differ according to the rivers, but I will be bold to say they are all alike in their kinds, some little difference there may possibly be in their colours, arising from the nature of the soil through which the rivers run, or from the difference

difference of men's fancies; but if every river was to produce different sorts of flies and insects, there would be a thousand times more than there are.

THUS have I given a full account of all the flies and gnats that are most necessary for angling, except two salmon flies, viz.

*The Dragon Fly, and Peacock Fly;*  
and two night-flies, viz.

*The Brown Fly, and White Fly;*  
which yet remain to be described.

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*The* DRAGON FLY.

**H**E feeds on small insects scarce discernable to the naked eye, great numbers of which I have taken out of the mouth of one these flies: they catch them in the same manner that swallows do, by flying at them.

THE head of this fly is almost all eyes; he has four wings of a dark brownish colour, and his body is of the same. The



bodies of some of them are two inches and a half long.

THIS fly comes in about the middle of May, and continues to the latter end of June.



*The* KING-FISHER, or PEACOCK FLY.

THIS fly feeds on the same insects with the former.

He is called the King-fisher from the beautifulness of his colour; but I should think the Peacock Fly to be the most proper name for him, for there can be nothing so like the wings and body of this fly, as the feather that grows on the neck of a peacock.

He comes in about the same time as the former, and continues three weeks or a month longer.

*The*



*The BROWN NIGHT FLY.*

**H**E is made of the brown feather of a hen, and the body of the same colour.

THIS is properly a moth, which flies by night only: and is to be used (if you are inclined for night fishing) in a dark gloomy night, after a warm day. When you fish in this manner, use a line about a yard longer than the rod, and put a couple of maggots at the point of the hook, which will be of great advantage to the smelling part.

It will take fish both in streams and standing waters, and you may hear them rise in as much perfection as if you were fishing by day. They will continue to bite till day-break, if the night be gloomy and cloudy; but if it be a moon-shining or star-light night, they will not stir at these flies, any more than they will at the day flies in a bright day.



### *The* WHITE NIGHT FLY.

**T**HIS fly is, in my opinion, the best of the two.

He is made of the white owl's feather, on account of the softness of it, upon a middle sized worm hook; the body of the same colour as the wings, and as big as a very large wheat straw.

He is in perfection about the latter end of May, and continues till the latter end of June; when, if you set out with an intent of killing a dish of fish in the day, and fail of success, you may be sure of taking them at night, if you are so disposed, and this night fly is on the water.

HAVING now given an account of the principal flies requisite to furnish out the diversion of anglers; with their several seasons, and the properest materials for forming them; it will be necessary, before I conclude the subject of Fly-fishing, to lay down the best directions I am able for making the artificial fly.

*The*



*The Manner of Making and Using the*  
**ARTIFICIAL FLY.**

**W**HEN you make an artificial fly, you must, in the first place, make choice of a hook proportionable to the fly you intend: this must be whipped on to your Indian grass, gut, or hair, in the same manner you would whip on a worm hook, only observing, that instead of fastening near the bend of the hook, (as is usual in the other way) you must fasten your silk near the top of the shank, and let it remain. Then taking as much feather as is necessary for the wings, lay it as even as you can upon the upper side of the shank, with the butt end of the feather downwards, towards the bend of the hook, and tye it fast three or four times round with the silk: then, with a pin or needle, divide the wings as equal as you can, and taking your silk, cross it three or four times between them, bringing the silk still downwards, towards the bend of the hook: then taking your hackle feather, tie it fast at the bend of the hook with the



point of the hackle upwards. Next, your furr or dubbing being ready, (which is to make the body of the fly) take a little of it and twist it gently round your silk, and work it upwards towards the butt end of the wings, and there fasten it: then take your hackle, rib it neatly over the dubbing, and fasten it; then bending the wings, and putting them into the form you design, bring on the butt end of your hackle towards the head, and there fasten it firm: then taking a bit of dubbing or furr, as near the colour of the head of the fly as you can, whip it twice or thrice round with the silk, and then fasten it just above the wings: so your fly is compleated.

I CONFESS no directions can well be given for making a fly, the way of doing it sometimes varying according to the fly you make use of, or according to the fancy of the artist; yet these rules, with a little practice, will in some measure assist an ingenious angler; but to see a fly made by a skillful artist is the best manner of learning. It is also very necessary, as you walk by the river, to take noitce of the particular kind of fly the trouts leap at, then catching one of them, and having a bag of materials ready provided for the purpose,

try

try how near art can imitate nature, and though you fail at first, yet by diligent observation and experience you will soon arrive at perfection, and take a particular pleasure in fly-making.

THE art of managing your rod and throwing your fly is no more to be learned by rules than that of making him; only I would advise the young sportsman, never to encumber himself with too much line, no longer at most than the breadth of the river he fishes in. In raising your line, observe to wave your rod a little round your head, rather than bring it directly backwards; and take care not to make a return of your line till it has gone to its full length behind you: otherwise you will be very apt to whip off your fly. The greatest skill is to make your line fall as lightly as possible on the water, especially in smooth gliding streams, for if it falls heavy, so as to dash the water, you will be sure to affright, and not catch the fish. When you see a fish rise at the natural fly, the best way is to throw a yard above him, rather than directly over his head, and let the fly move gently towards him, by which means you will shew it him more naturally, and he will be the more tempt-

ed to take it. But nothing except your own experience and practice can make you a master in this art, so as to throw exactly behind trees and bushes into holes and curls of the water, for there the best fish commonly lie.



O F

## BOTTOM-FISHING.

### *The COD-BAIT.*

**T**HE Cod bair, or Cadis, is one of the most excellent baits for bottom fishing, and therefore I shall begin with it.

THEY are found in gravelly and stony brooks or rivulets, and chiefly under stones. When you get them, you will observe that some of them will stick to the stones, and these are the ripest and best coloured. When you have got as many as you want, put them into a linen bag, and after you have

have tied them up, dip them in the water, and keep them five or six days, dipping the bag once a day, which will bring them fit for use, making them yellow, and as tough as earth-worms.

To distinguish the several sorts of these cadis worms, to observe what fly each of them is turned to, and to know how to make use of them in both shapes, are things that shew the angler's nicest skill. They differ very much according to the soil wherein they are bred, and are produced chiefly in little rills that run into larger rivers; therefore are a more proper bait for those rivers than any other. They are a fine bait for trout and grayling.



*How to Use the COD-BAIT.*

ABOUT a week or nine days in May Cod-bait fishing comes in season; which is the first bait to be used in a morning, and may be continued to the middle of the day.

It is an excellent bait till the middle of June, and is to be used with a hook leaded on the shank, and the Cod-bait drawn on  
to



to the top of it. It will take in deep waters as well as in streams, by moving it up and down about nine inches or a foot from the bottom : this is commonly called sink and draw. There is another method of fishing with Cod-bait at mid-water, but then you must put a canon-fly at the point of your hook.

THIS bait is as good a bottom bait as any that I know, if the water be clear ; and is to be preferred to the worm at least three degrees to one, because all sorts of pool fish, and even the eel are great lovers of it. This bait I always fish with myself in the morning, while the May fly is on ; and I dare be bold to say, there is not any fish upon his feed that will refuse it. The Cod-bait may be made artificially, and so near to the natural, that, in the water, it is impossible to distinguish the one from the other.



### *The GRASS-HOPPER,*

**I**S likewise a curious fine bait, which comes in about the latter end of June.

THE

THE young ones are produced about the middle of May, and are to be found on the joints and knots of most sorts of herbs and grass in the fields, in a white fermented froth, commonly called cuckow's spit. Here they are nourished for some time, and then drop down into the grass, and in about a fortnight or three weeks time after this they are in perfection. It is a beautiful fine bait to fish with, but very tender.

AFTER the legs are taken off, it is to be drawn upon a leaded hook, in the same manner as the cod-bait, and then to be moved about a foot or nine inches from the bottom. Your line must be very fine for a yard or more above the bait, consisting of single hairs, if you have any strong enough, or else of fine grass or silk-worm guts: the reason why it must be thus fine is, on account of the quickness of its sinking; for the quicker it sinks the more freely the fish take it.

You may begin to fish with this bait about the middle of June, and continue morning fishing till the middle of August, if the water be in order, for which it ought to be very fine and low. I have caught with this bait, pike, trout, grayling, perch, botling, roach, and dace, and am sure that  
all

all pool fish are equally fond of it, for it is a very natural food both to pools and rivers.

THE first flight of the Grass-hoppers are all dead or destroyed by the middle of July, but they leave young ones enough behind to succeed them; these continue till the coldness of the weather destroys them, and this last flight (as I suppose) lay their eggs in the grass, to preserve the species till the next season.



### *The CABBAGE WORM, or CABBAGE GRUB.*

THIS is an insect produced from the white butterfly, and may be found, about the beginning of May, on cabbage leaves.

THERE is another sort of grub which is called the Sleeper, because he lies quiet and concealed in the hearts of cabbages, never appearing on the outside leaves as the speckled one does: his back is of a dark brown, and his belly of a beautiful green,

green, finely ribbed. This is found from the beginning of July to the latter end of September, in the hearts of cabbages: he proceeds from the brown butterfly, and is of a harder nature than the other.

THERE is a third sort that is of a dull green colour, which also lies quiet in the hearts of cabbages, and is the least of the three.

I have put all these sorts of grubs into a box, and found that they changed into three different sorts of butterflies: the Speckled grub was the white butterfly; the Sleeper was a dark brown butterfly; and the Green one was a light dun butterfly, with two little circles in his wings of a different colour, resembling two eyes.

These are all the palmer worms that I know of which belong to cabbages.

THE Cabbage Grub is to be used about the same time with the cod-bait; when it will not be improper to be prepared with them both, for the fish are as fickle in their diet as any thing I know, changing their food half a dozen times a day, bottom and top, and sometimes they will prefer the Cabbage Grub to the cod-bait.

You must fish with a line the length of the rod; the bottom of it must be fine,  
that



that the bait may sink the quicker. Use a large sized worm-hook, very well leaded, for it is a large tough bait; and fish with it in the same manner as the cod-bait, in still waters, curls, and streams. It is a very beautiful tempting bait.

THE first sort continue till the latter end of June; and after that there are very few to be seen till the end of August, when they are succeeded, in great quantities by the others. These grubs, and grass hoppers; are the best bottom baits till the latter end of October, and may be used till twelve o'clock every morning; and then, if you are inclined to change your bait, you may use the little pale blue fly with success, which the graylings are particularly fond of; for they love to take the Cabbage Grub or grass-hopper in a morning, and to sport themselves with the flies in the afternoon.

OF



O F  
**MINNOW-FISHING:**

O R,  
**Trouling with the MINNOW.**

**T**HIS sport comes in about the beginning of March, if the water be fine and low, and continues till the latter end of May. It is a very eager sport, and an excellent bait at the clearing of the water; it is best to be fished with from one o'clock till sun-setting, because at that time the flies and insects have drawn the fish out upon their feed, and then they will run very eagerly at the Minnow.

**A**T this sport you must have a very stiff top-rod, and a strong line about the length of the rod, with a very large hook, long in the shank, and well covered with lead to the bend of the hook. The minnow

now is to be drawn upon the hook, beginning at the head, and the point of the hook to come out a little above the tail. This is to be used (chiefly) in very rapid streams, which help to give the Minnow a brisk and natural motion, and thereby encourage the largest trout to take it.

In this way of fishing it is necessary to have a swivel or two in your line, as well to help the Minnow to play, and turn freely and easily, as to prevent your line from twisting or breaking. You must likewise observe to draw your line with a pretty quick motion up the stream; and, when you see the fish run at it, as you frequently will, take care that you do not snatch away the bait through surprise, which is a caution that the most experienced anglers are not always sufficiently guarded against.

OF  
this sort you must have a very strong line about the length of the rod, with a very large hook, long in the Shank and well covered with lead to the head of the hook. The minnow



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## MAGGOT-FISHING.

**B**EFORE I lay down any directions for using this bait, I shall give the best directions I can for breeding them.

For this purpose you are to take a beef's liver, lights, or lungs, or a sheep's head (but livers are the best). After it is scored with a knife, hang it up and cover it, but not too close, for the flies will blow it better covered than hanging in the open air. In two or three days after you perceive the maggots to be alive, take down the liver, and put it into a barrel or large earthen pan, and there let it remain till you think the maggots are of full growth. Then take a sufficient quantity of bran, in proportion to the size of the liver, and in three or four days the first brood will come out of the liver into the bran,  
and



and there scour themselves. Then in three or four days more take a stick and run through the liver, and hang it across the barrel or pot, when the latter brood will soon drop out into the bran, and scour themselves for your use.

This is the best method to prevent their turning to seemingly dead blackish grubs, and from thence to flies. I have known a fly-blow changed into the dead state of a grub, and from thence into a fly, which has produced other flies, in the space of fifteen days; but this was in the hotter months.

If you are willing to preserve Maggots all the winter, you must get two or three livers about the beginning of November; and, if it be a favourable season, the flies will blow them as strongly as in the hotter weather, in order to preserve their kind against the next summer. These are to be managed in the same manner as the other, only kept somewhat warmer till they come to their full growth, and then throw in a good quantity of bran, which will secure them from frost in winter: they are to be kept in a cellar or some dampish place, in the barrel or pot they were bred in. Thus you

you may preserve them all the winter, and at any time, if the weather will permit, have them ready for use.

I SHALL, in the next place, give a particular account of Maggot-Fishing, which I look upon to be the best kind of bait that ever was invented, and of most general use for killing fish, either in rivers or ponds.

THIS fishing comes in the beginning of May, and continues till after Christmas; but the best time for taking the grayling in rivers, is from the middle of August to November, though these fish are not out of season all the winter, and will take no other bait, at that season, so well as the Maggot. It is in general to be preferred ten to one above any other bait that I know or ever heard of, for all sorts of fresh-water fish (except salmon, pike, and shad,) will feed upon this bait in a very plentiful manner. There is not any sort of fish that I know of in the rivers Severn, Wye, and Teme, but I have taken with this bait; except the three above-mentioned. Likewise, if gentlemen and ladies are inclined to angle in ponds, this bait will take carp, tench, perch, bream, roach, dace, eel, &c.

&c. It is the best bait for quickness of sport; for upon throwing in a few handfuls of them, by little and little, before you begin to fish, you will by that means draw the fish together; and they will pick up the baits from the bottom, just as the poultry will pick up their food from the ground; so that when you come to the place to fish, they will be waiting there in expectation of more food, and you will be certain of sport.

THOUGH there are several sorts of ground-baits and pastes recommended, for baiting the holes where you fish, yet none of them are comparable to Maggots, which will draw all the fish upon feed thirty or forty yards up the river. It was formerly the practice to bait the hook with the Maggot, and to bait the holes with other sorts of ground baits, which, in my opinion, could afford but little sport, for neither trout, grayling, or perch will eat grains, stewed malt, pastes, or any such dead baits, and therefore it is necessary to bait the holes with the same you put upon your hook; living baits, when thrown into the water, being much more tempting than dead ones, and make  
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the fish more eager. I have sometimes lost a hook in a grayling's mouth, and in a minute's time have caught the fish again, and recovered the hook, which I found in his mouth.

To confirm this, I may add what happened to some gentlemen of great distinction, whom I attended a fishing in the river near Oakley Park; who, by the clearness of the water, plainly saw me draw the graylings and other fish about me, by throwing in, by degrees, a few handfuls of Maggots, and distinctly observed their manner of feeding; and afterwards, when they struck away two hooks in two fishes mouths, they took notice that those particular fish never moved out of their sight till they hooked them again, and caught them, each of which weighed two pounds. This induces me to believe, there is no bait so tempting (for grayling especially) as the Maggot; for I could never find by any of my brother anglers, that there was any bait wherewith they could tempt the fish to bite again so soon and so often after they had once been hooked. I confess a grayling is the most free biting fish that I know, and the most easily taken, and therefore when I have had great success in

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taking



taking a good dish of fish, I have been suspected by some persons of using oils and allurements; whereas, in fact, they were caught by Maggot-Fishing only.

THIS is a way of fishing as easily learnt as any I know; the greatest difficulty is to find out the most proper feeding places: for which purpose, observe in general, that all sorts of fish love to lie deeper upon their feed in clear water, and shallower in muddy water. You may fish without a float, but the common method is to use one.

WHEN you fish in rivers with this bait, you must fish with a hook from N<sup>o</sup>. 6 to N<sup>o</sup>. 9, according to the foulness or clearness of the water; your line must be finer than for pool-fishing, and you must lead pretty heavy: the lower link must be a single hair, or a fine silk-worm gut; and always observe that your shot drags upon the bottom, especially in a stream.



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## WORM-FISHING.

**T**HERE are a great variety of Worms, but I shall describe those only which are most useful to the angler.



### *The* FLESH-COLOURED RED WORM,

**O**R, as he is sometimes called, the Dunghill Red Worm, is to be commonly found under old thatch, or that and dung mixed together. This small and knotted, and of a bright red. There are some to be found in most dunghills.



*The BRANDLING,*

**I**S a very beautiful worm, streaked from head to tail in round ringlets, one streak being red and the other yellow. He is chiefly found in dunghills consisting of horse dung and hogs-dung mixed together; and you may sometimes find very fine large ones among the shavings of curriers leather, mixed with a little earth: but hog's-dung and horse-dung mixed breeds the greatest quantity.



*The LITTLE GILT TAIL, or  
TAG WORM,*

**I**S of a pale yellow towards the tail, and shorter than the dunghill red worm, but knotted like it. He is commonly found among old horse dung, and you may probably find these three sorts in the same dunghill.

*The*

*The PEACOCK RED, or BLACK-  
HEADED WORM,*

**I**S to be found under cow dung, or horse-dung, three parts dried, in the fields. He is to be met with from the latter end of April to the beginning of August under cow dung chiefly, with his head an inch above ground; and I could never find any of this sort in any other places.

THE reason of his being called the Peacock Red Worm, is because his head is of as fine a gloss as the harl of a peacock, and very near the same colour. Some take him to have a black head; but if they view him when he is well scoured, they will find him of a different colour. He has a flat broad tail, and is a very good worm at bottom-fishing.



*The LOB WORM, or DEW WORM.*

**I**S best in season from the beginning of May till the beginning of August, and



may be fished with all sorts of ways, sometimes at bottom, sometimes at mid-water, preaching with them for eels, bobbing with them tied in knots, on silk or thread, &c.

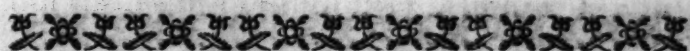
LOB WORMS are of two sorts, but of the same kind; the older are knotted, the younger without knots, which, for distinction sake, are called Maiden Lobs, as having never bred, and are by some called Red Lo's. Of both sorts, some have a broad spreading tail, and are more red-headed than the others; they have a streak or list along the back, and being longer and tougher, are more valued for taking large fish.



### *The WHITE WORM, or MARL WORM,*

**I**S chiefly found in marl or clay land, and commonly after the plow tail. His head is very small, and of a pale red, and his tail is tagged with yellow. The other part of his body is nearly of the same colour with the earth he is bred in; but when he is scoured, he is of a pale white.

*The*



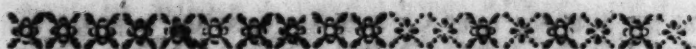
*The DOCK WORM, or SQUIRREL-TAIL,*

**I**S a fine pale red worm, without knots, which is chiefly found in moist places, near dock roots; and is best discovered by shaking the earth with a dung fork. This is the best earth worm for carp or tench of any that I know.



*The SEDGE WORM,*

**I**S commonly found in the hollow part of sedges near the roots. He has a black head and whitish body, and is as tender as the young wasp-grub, and about an inch in length. This worm is not to be found in any other place but the roots of sedges; and is a very good bait for fish, especially in those pools where sedges grow.

*The COW-DUNG BOB,*

**I**S to be found from the latter end of April till the latter end of July, under cow-dung half dried. He is of a whitish yellow with a red head. It is a very tender bait, and must be used with the same line and hook as the maggot. They are to be put into some of the earth from under the cow dung where they were found, and if kept cool and moist, you may preserve them three weeks or a month.

THE usual manner of keeping and scouring worms in wet moss, is so well known, that I need not say any thing of it.

*TROUT-FISHING with the WORM,*

**C**OMES in the latter end of February, and continues good till the middle of May, particularly mornings and evenings,

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THE best Worms that I know for this sport, are the little red worm, the brandling, and the white worm, which ought to be well cleaned. Your hook ought to be N<sup>o</sup> 2 or 3, fixed to a good Indian grass or silk worm gut, and your lead about nine inches or a foot from your hook: if the water be low three duck-shots will be enough; but if high, five or six. Your line must be a foot, or a foot and a half longer than your rod, if it be an open gravelly river you fish in, but if incumbered with trees or bushes let it be a foot or two shorter. You must always be sure, in an open river, to let the point of your rod go before your body, keeping your lead upon the gravel, for then your line fishes well; and the reason of having your line so much longer than the rod, is to keep yourself as much out of sight as possible, especially in clear water; but in a muddy water, there is no necessity of having your line any longer than the rod.

WHEN you arm a hook for Worm-fishing, keep the link on the inside, whipping a bristle along with it, and this is done to prevent your bait from slipping, otherwise it will be apt to slip down into the bend



bend of the hook and choak it up, that it cannot catch hold of the fish.

THIS is the best method of bottom-fishing with the Worm that I can direct. There is no necessity of having the line longer than the rod for any other sort of bottom-fishing.



### Of PALMER WORMS.

THERE are several sorts of little grubs and worms, of various colours, to be found in the summer time on the leaves of trees and bushes, which are called Palmer Worms.

These are best to be got by beating and shaking the boughs of oaks, crab-trees, hawthorns, or other bushes that grow over highways or other bare and open places, where you may most conveniently find them, and gather them up after they are fallen. When you have got a sufficient number of them, in order to keep them for use, you must put them in wooden boxes, each sort by themselves, and feed them with some of the fresh leaves from the

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the tree they were taken from. You must feed them five or six times a week, and be sure you take the withered leaves from them as often as you give them fresh ones, and you must observe to make little holes in the boxes to give them air. All the sorts are very natural food for fishes, as well in rivers as ponds.

THREE of these sorts are to be made artificially, viz. the Brown Palmer Worm, the Black Palmer Worm, and the Red Palmer Worm.

THE Brown Palmer is made of a hog's down, dyed of an amber colour, ribbed with silver twist, with a red cock's hackle over it. The Black Palmer is made of an ostridge's black feather, or the feather out of the top knot of a plover, ribbed with gold twist, and covered with a black hackle. The Red Palmer is made of reddish coloured mohair, ribbed with gold twist, and a red hackle over it. \*\*\*\*\*

THESE Worms are to be fished with either at top or bottom: at top, you must fish with them in the same manner as with the artificial fly; and at the bottom, in the same manner as with the cabbage grub or grass hopper, made artificially upon a leaded hook.

I ALWAYS found these baits most proper to be fished with in the same manner as worms or maggots, and in this way you must angle with a pretty fine hook, about N<sup>o</sup>. 4. Let your float keep the bait four or five inches from the bottom, either in river or pond.

THIS is likewise an excellent bait for bobbing at the bush, with a fine bittern's feather wrapped about the upper end of the shank, and the bait drawn down upon the bend of the hook, and if there are any fish upon feed near it they will not refuse it.

THIS bait, when it first drops off the boughs, often swims down the water, by reason of the web it is involved in, which bears it up; when the trouts, which are lurking under the boughs in expectation of the prey, will seldom let them escape.

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### *Of the BEE T L E.*

**A**NOTHER bait which I have not yet taken notice of, and which is sometimes of great use to the angler, is the Beetle. This is of different colours, the

the one quite black, the other of a dusky red. Each sort has two pair of wings, one over the other; the uppermost hairy and hard, the undermost soft and transparent, which, when expanded and stretched out, are much longer than the other, and of a bluish colour. The red ones are esteemed the best, and both may be found in horse-dung or cow dung, three or four days after it has been dropt in the fields, from the time that cattle go out to grass till about Michaelmas.

WHEN you use them, clip off their hard wings, and hang them on your hook with their legs towards the water. Your line must be strong, and about a yard and a half or two yards long, and so bob or drop for large trouts or botlings, under banks or bushes, in clear bright weather.

THERE is a sort of little worm or insect which I took particular notice of some years ago, and found in prodigious numbers upon the oar trees and bushes about Michaelmas. I sometimes observed fifty or sixty of them upon a leaf: they were then about the size of a barley-corn, but, in about a fortnight, they came to be near an inch long. They eat all the leaves from  
off



off the oyl trees for half a mile up the river, and appeared in such infinite swarms, that there was scarce a leaf to be seen on a tree or bush. When they had destroyed the leaves, they fell into the river, and I found the trouts, graylings, and dace, had fed plentifully upon them, and were gorged with them.

THESE worms had black heads, four feet under their throats, and a black list down their backs, with two yellow streaks on each side, from head to tail. I perceived they could hang fast by the tail, when the rest of the body was loose and disengaged. I never before took any notice of these worms, though I had observed the insects near the river, during the course of my practice, for many years; yet, no doubt, some of them, more or less, may be found every year: but this was a sight new and surprising to me, as well as to many others who saw them.

IT may be remarked, that each insect owes its being to a male and female; and proceeds from an egg, in which is inclosed the seed and first nutriment. The female makes choice of such place to lay her eggs in, as appears to her most commodious, and

and where she supposes there is heat sufficient to hatch them; and where her young when released from their confinement, will find all convenient subsistence. And let such as are fond of novelty, and entertain the vulgar notion, that insects (all, or many of them) derive their existence from corruption, because we find worms, and sometimes flies in all corrupted matter, remember, that they thereby cast a great reflection on the author of nature, and become a reproach and dishonour to human reason. For, whoever bestows the least serious thought on insects, those diminutive creatures, whose structure is performed with such evident harmony and contrivance, which are provided so well with all things needful, and perpetuate their species in one form without the least variation, must either acknowledge that they are the creatures of an almighty power, or fall into the absurd doctrine of chance, and allow them to be the result of the fortuitous concurrence of some humours which have been altered and displaced. I call this absurd, for it is ridiculous to the last degree to imagine that chance acts, or to affirm that she acts with any design, regularity, or precaution. The same all-wise  
providence

providence that engages our admiration in the structure of a human body, is equally conspicuous in the formation of an insect: and putrefaction is no more the parent of insects than of larger animals, or of man himself.

THUS have I now given my reader a full account of all the baits, natural as well as artificial, and have laid down the best and plainest directions I am able, when, and in what manner to use them, so as to conduce most to his diversion; and shall now take my leave of him in the celebrated words of the poet;

— *Si quid novisti rectius istis,  
Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.*



F I N I S.

